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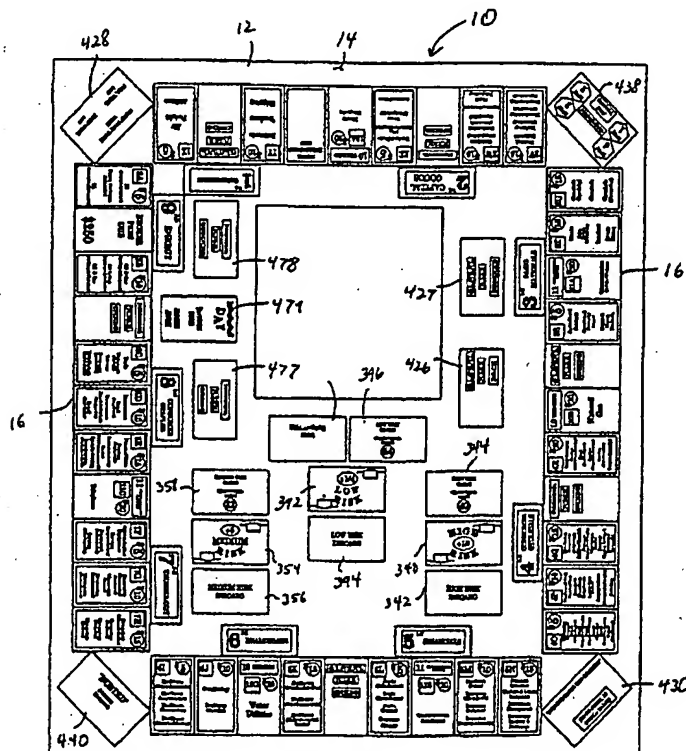
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(54) Title: AN INVESTMENT BOARD GAME AND METHOD OF PLAYING SAME



(57) Abstract: An investment board game (10) and game method are disclosed. The board includes an endless path (16). The path includes a plurality of stock spaces (18), each representing a stock (34) and a stock purchase price (36). Upon moving to one of the stock spaces, the player is permitted to purchase shares of stock for that space. If shares are purchased, the player must draw a stock value card (330), which has the potential of changing the closing value of the stock. The stock value cards are preferably arranged into low, medium and high risk card sets (334, 332, 330). A plurality of personal risk spaces (462) are dispersed among the stock spaces along the path, and a player who moves to one of these spaces must draw a personal risk card that is likely to monetarily award or penalize the player.

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*For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.*

## AN INVESTMENT BOARD GAME AND METHOD OF PLAYING SAME

## BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

## 1. Field of the Invention

5 The present invention relates generally to an investment game. More particularly, the present invention concerns the board and various other components used in playing the investment game. The present invention also particularly concerns an investment game methodology which is believed to realistically represent stock market investing and to provide investment education to the players.

## 10 2. Discussion of Prior Art

It is known to provide a board game and/or game method that simulates investment practices and situations in the stock market. However, conventional investment games simply are not realistic, and the players are consequently not given  
15 the impression that their participation accurately represents the activities normally associated with the stock market. Moreover, because of the unrealistic nature of conventional investment games, such expedients necessarily lack educational value. That is, traditional investment games are simply incapable of truly educating the game participants about the stock market. Conventional investment games are also often  
20 difficult to play, and there is typically a significant amount of time invested in simply understanding the peculiarities and tedious rules of the game.

## OBJECTS AND SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

25 Responsive to these and other problems, an important object of the present invention is to provide an investment board game and game methodology that overcomes the shortcomings of traditional investment games. Particularly, an important object of the present invention is to provide an investment board game and game methodology that realistically simulates investment situations and practices. Another  
30 important object of the present invention is to provide an investment board game and game methodology that is highly educational for the players. In this regard, an important object of the present invention is to not only educate the players about the stock market but also provide education on other issues. Another important object of the present invention is to provide a board game and game methodology that is relatively easy to understand and play, while still sufficiently challenging the players.

That is, an important object of the present invention is to provide an investment board game and game methodology that is interesting yet readily understandable.

In accordance with these and other objects evident from the following description of the preferred embodiment, the present invention concerns an investment board game including a board having a plurality of stock spaces that define at least in part an endless path. Each of the stock spaces includes indicia identifying a stock, with each space further including a stock purchase price area in which a purchase price for the stock may be represented. A plurality of game pieces are provided to represent the players as they move along the path. The board game further includes mechanism for providing a random space count for controlling movement of the pieces along the path. A chance indicator is used to determine a closing value for the stock purchased by each of the players. The board game also includes a stock portfolio device operable to permit input and storage of the purchased stock and the closing value for the purchased stock.

The invention also concerns a method of playing an investment game, wherein players are provided with an initial amount of money. Each player is moved along a path that includes a plurality of stock spaces. As above, each stock space is associated with a stock and a purchase price for the stock. When a player is moved to one of the spaces, that player is permitted to purchase the stock represented by that stock space. A closing value for any stock purchased by the player is determined.

Other aspects and advantages of the present invention will be apparent from the following detailed description of the preferred embodiment and the accompanying drawing figures.

#### BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWING FIGURES

A preferred embodiment of the invention is described in detail below with reference to the attached drawing figures, wherein:

FIG. 1 is a top plan view of a game board for playing an investment game in accordance with the principles of the present invention;

FIG. 2a is an enlarged, fragmentary top plan view of a corner section of the game board;

FIG. 2b is an enlarged, fragmentary top plan view of a corner section of the game board adjacent to the section shown in FIG. 2a;

FIG. 2c is an enlarged, fragmentary top plan view of a corner section of the game board adjacent to the section shown in FIG. 2b and opposite from the section shown in FIG. 2a;

5       FIG. 2d is an enlarged, fragmentary top plan view of a corner section of the game board between the sections shown in FIGS. 2c and 2a and opposite from the section shown in FIG. 2b;

FIG. 2e is a schematic view of the game board, particularly illustrating the relative locations of the game board sections depicted in FIGS. 2a-e;

10       FIG. 3 is a perspective view of the stock portfolio booklet used for player input and storage of such information as the number of shares purchased of a stock and the closing value for the stock;

FIG. 4 is a top plan view of the stock portfolio booklet, but being opened to a different page than that shown in FIG. 3;

15       FIG. 5 is a top plan view of the silent bid card used by each player when bidding for stock that is being sold by one of the players;

FIG. 6 is a schematic representation of the sides of the six-sided stock value die used when a card from the low risk card set is drawn by one of the players;

20       FIG. 7 is a perspective view of one of the game pieces used to represent a player and the six-sided dice for controlling movement of the game pieces along the path;

FIG. 8 is a perspective view of the faux bills used by the players to purchase stock;

FIG. 9a is a plan view of the stock purchase price face of the laminated disk used to identify changes in the purchase price of one of the stocks;

25       FIG. 9b is a plan view of the opposite share face of the laminated disk;

FIG. 10a is a perspective view of a personal risk card set from which the player draws when the player moves to one of the personal risk spaces along the path;

FIG. 10b is a plan view of one of the personal risk cards;

30       FIG. 11a is a perspective view of a global risk card set from which the player draws when the player moves to one of the global risk spaces along the path;

FIG. 11b is a plan view of one of the global risk cards;

FIG. 12a is a perspective view of a judgement day card set from which the player draws when instructed to do so by one of the personal risk cards shown in FIG. 10a;

FIG. 12b is a plan view of one of the judgement day cards;

FIG. 13a is a perspective view of a high risk card set from which the player may draw when determining the closing value for a purchased stock;

FIG. 13b is a plan view of one of the high risk cards;

FIG. 14a is a perspective view of a medium risk card set from which the player may draw when determining the closing value for a purchased stock;

FIG. 14b is a plan view of one of the medium risk cards;

FIG. 15a is a perspective view of a low risk card set from which the player may draw when determining the closing value for a purchased stock; and

FIG. 15b is a plan view of one of the low risk cards.

#### DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

As shown FIG. 1, the board game 10 selected for illustration includes a board 12 that is generally rectangular in shape and formed of any suitable material. As is customary, the board 12 preferably comprises a laminated sheet that has at least one crease so that the sheet is foldable. As will subsequently be described, the top surface 14 of the board 12 is printed with various indicia to facilitate playing of the game.

A path 16 is defined about the perimeter of the board 12, with the path 16 being endless and rectangular in shape. The path 16 is primarily defined by a plurality of stock spaces, each of which represents a stock and a purchase price for the stock. In the illustrated embodiment, there are thirty-two stock spaces arranged into eleven stock groups. It will be appreciated that the illustrated arrangement generally coincides with the commonly accepted categorization of the stocks traded on the New York Stock Exchange, and the stock groups therefore include "transportation", "capital goods", "basic materials", "consumer cyclicals", "financials", "health care", "technology", "consumer staples", "energy", "utilities" and "communication services."

The transportation group of stock spaces includes two stock spaces 18 and 20 and an identification area 22 that is located adjacent but just inward of the spaces 18,20 (see FIG. 2a). The identification area 22 includes a border 24 (preferably in the form of a colored strip), identification indicia 26 located inside the border 24, and group distinguishing indicia 28 also inside the border 24. The identification indicia is preferably in the form of the word "transportation" and therefore serves to identify the stocks of the associated spaces 18,20 as being part of the transportation group. The group distinguishing indicia 28 is preferably in the form of the numeral "1" and will be

used throughout the game 10 to associate things with the transportation group. Associated with the group distinguishing indicia 28 is space indicia 30 that represents the stock spaces forming the group. It is noted that the transportation stock spaces 18 and 20 are separated by another space which will be described hereinbelow.

5           The first stock space 18 includes a border 32 that defines the perimeter of the space 18, stock identification indicia 34 located inside the border, purchase price indicia 36 just inside the upper right corner of the border 32, and space identification indicia 38 just inside the upper left corner of the border 32. The illustrated stock identification indicia 34 is preferably in the form of the words "air freight" and "airlines". It will be appreciated that these words represent two of the commonly accepted subgroups of the transportation stock group of the New York Stock Exchange. It is entirely within the ambit of the present invention, however, to identify only one specific stock in the space 18. For example, the principles of the present invention are equally applicable to stock identification indicia that represents only one publicly traded company (if desired, such indicia may take the form of a recognizable trademark or service mark associated with the company). In any case, the illustrated purchase price indicia 36 consists of a dollar amount (i.e., five dollars) identifying the initial purchase price per share for the stock represented by the space 18. It is noted that the dollar amount is generally located within a circular area. If desired, the dollar amount may be removable so that the stock purchase price may be changed, as will subsequently be described. For example, the circular area may be laminated so that the player can enter an initial purchase price as instructed by the game rules and then change the purchase price as necessary. The space identification indicia 38 is in the form of the alphanumeric symbol "1Z", with the numeral "1" being the distinguishing indicia for the transportation group. The symbol indicia 38 further includes the letter "Z", as a result of the stock space 18 being the last of the twenty-six stock space symbols (moving counterclockwise around the board) that have letters cooperatively presenting the English alphabet.

20           The stock space 20 is generally similar in design to the stock space 18. Thus, it shall be sufficient to simply identify the distinctions. First, the stock identification indicia 40 of the stock space 20 includes the words "railroads", "truckers" and "shipping". It will be appreciated that the stock identification indicia of the stock space 20 represents the remaining commonly accepted subgroups of the transportation stock group of the New York Stock Exchange. That is to say, the stock identification

indicia 34 and 40 cooperatively identify the commonly accepted subgroups of the transportation group of stocks in the New York Stock Exchange. Further, the purchase price indicia 42 of the stock space 20 is different from that of the stock space 18. In particular, the purchase price indicia of the stock space 20 identifies the initial purchase price per share as being ten dollars (\$10). The space identification indicia similarly comprises an alphanumeric symbol including the group distinguishing indicia "1". However, because the stock space 20 makes up part of the set of alphabetical spaces, as noted above, the symbol includes the letter "Y". It is also noted that the letters "Z" and "Y", which form part of the space identification symbols 38,44 and distinguish the two transportation stock spaces 18 and 20 from one another, are reproduced as the space indicia 30 in the group identification area 22. The use of the space indicia 30 and space identification symbols 38,44 allow the players to readily associate the spaces with their stock group, and vice versa.

All of the other stock groups similarly include a plurality of closely located stock spaces and an inwardly spaced stock identification area, except for two of the stock groups which have spaces dispersed along the path and no identification area. The two exceptions include the utilities and communication services stock groups, and it is also noted that the spaces of the nine similarly arranged groups make up the twenty-six alphabetical spaces noted hereinabove. It is also noted that the stock spaces of each of the nine similarly arranged stock groups include stock identification indicia that cooperatively represent the commonly accepted subgroups of stocks for that stock group of the New York Stock Exchange. Because of the general similarities to the transportation group of stock spaces, the ten remaining stock groups will be briefly described with emphasis on any distinctions.

As perhaps best shown in FIG. 2b, the second stock group is capital goods and consists of three stock spaces 46,48,50. The first stock space 46 is spaced from the second space 48 by a space which will subsequently be described, while the second and third spaces 48 and 50 are adjacent one another. More particularly, the first stock space 46 preferably includes space identification indicia 52 in the form of the symbol "2X", purchase price indicia 54 in the form of the amount "\$5", and stock identification indicia 56 in the form of the words "trucks & parts", "office equipment & supplies", "waste management" and "aerospace/defense". The second capital goods stock space 48 preferably includes space identification indicia 58 in the form of the symbol "2W", purchase price indicia 60 in the form of the amount "\$10", and stock



identification indicia 62 in the form of the words "containers (metals & gas)", "construction (cements & aggregates)", "engineering and construction" and "metal fabricators". The third capital goods stock space 50 preferably includes space identification indica 64 in the form of the symbol "2V", purchase price indicia 66 in the form of the amount "\$15", and stock identification indicia 68 in the form of the words "electrical equipment", "machinery (diversified)", "manufacturing (diversified)" and "manufacturing (specialized)". The group identification area 70 for the capital goods stock group includes, among other things, the distinguishing indicia 72 for that group (i.e., the numeral "2"). It is also noted that the group distinguishing indicia forms part of the space symbols 52,58,64. As shown in FIG. 1, the spaces 46,48,50 of the capital goods stock group are located along the same side of the board 12 as the spaces 18,20 of the transportation stock group.

Returning to FIG. 2b, the third stock group is basic materials and consists of three stock spaces 74,76,78. The first and second stock spaces 74 and 76 are adjacent one another, while the second space 76 is separated from the third space 78 by one of the communication services spaces described hereinbelow. More particularly, the first basic materials stock space 74 preferably includes space identification indica 80 in the form of the symbol "3U", purchase price indicia 82 in the form of the amount "\$15", and stock identification indicia 84 in the form of the words "chemicals (specialty)", "chemicals" and "chemicals (diversified)". The second basic materials stock space 76 preferably includes space identification indica 86 in the form of the symbol "3T", purchase price indicia 88 in the form of the amount "\$10", and stock identification indicia 90 in the form of the words "metals", "gold & precious metals mining", "iron steel" and "metals mining". The third basic materials stock space 78 preferably includes space identification indica 92 in the form of the symbol "3S", purchase price indicia 94 in the form of the amount "\$5", and stock identification indicia 96 in the form of the words "agricultural products", "containers & packaging (paper)" and "paper & forest products". The group identification area 98 for the basic materials stock group includes, among other things, the distinguishing indicia 100 for that group (i.e., the numeral "3"). It is also noted that the group distinguishing indicia forms part of the space symbols 80,86,92. As shown in FIG. 2b, the spaces 74,76,78 of the basic materials stock group are located along the side of the board 12 that is adjacent but perpendicular to the side along which the capital goods stock spaces 46,48,50 are located.

As perhaps best shown in FIG. 2c, the fourth stock group is consumer  
cyclicals and consists of four stock spaces 102,104,106,108. The first stock space 102  
is separated from the second space 104 by a space which will subsequently be  
described, while the second, third and fourth spaces 104,106,108 are adjacent one  
another. More particularly, the first stock space 102 preferably includes space  
identification indicia 110 in the form of the symbol "4R", purchase price indicia 112 in  
the form of the amount "\$20", and stock identification indicia 114 in the form of the  
words "retail (specialty)", "services (advertising & marketing)", "retail (specialty  
apparel)", "services (commercial & consumer)", "textiles (home furnishings)", and  
"textiles (specialty)". The second consumer cyclicals stock space 104 preferably  
includes space identification indicia 116 in the form of the symbol "4Q", purchase price  
indicia 118 in the form of the amount "\$15", and stock identification indicia 120 in the  
form of the words "auto parts & equipment", "automobiles", "building materials",  
"consumer (jewelry, novelties, gifts)", "distributors (durables)", "footwear", and  
"gaming, lottery & parimutuel companies". The third consumer cyclicals stock space  
106 preferably includes space identification indicia 122 in the form of the symbol "4P",  
purchase price indicia 124 in the form of the amount "\$10", and stock identification  
indicia 126 in the form of the words "hardware & tools", "home building", "household  
furnishings & appliances", "leisure time (products)", "lodging & hotels",  
"photography/imaging" and "publishing". The fourth consumer cyclicals stock space  
108 preferably includes space identification indicia 128 in the form of the symbol "4O",  
purchase price indicia 130 in the form of the amount "\$5", and stock identification  
indicia 132 in the form of the words "publishing (newspapers)", "retail (building  
supplies)", "retail (computers & electronics)", "retail (department & stores)", "retail  
(discounters)", "retail (general merchandise)" and "retail (home shopping)". The group  
identification area 134 for the consumer cyclicals stock group includes, among other  
things, the distinguishing indicia 136 for that group (i.e., the numeral "4"). It is also  
noted that the group distinguishing indicia forms part of the space symbols  
110,116,122,128. As shown in FIG. 1, the spaces 102,104,106,108 of the consumer  
cyclicals stock group are located along the same side of the board 12 as the spaces  
74,76,78 of the basic materials stock group.

As also shown in FIG. 2c, the fifth stock group is financials and consists  
of three stock spaces 138,140,142. The first and second stock spaces 138,140 are  
adjacent one another, while the second and third stock spaces 140,142 are separated by

one of the communication services spaces described hereinbelow. More particularly, the first stock space 138 preferably includes space identification indicia 144 in the form of the symbol "5N", purchase price indicia 146 in the form of the amount "\$15", and stock identification indicia 148 in the form of the words "financial (diversified)", "savings & loans companies", "investment management" and "investment banking & brokerage". The second financials stock space 140 preferably includes space identification indicia 150 in the form of the symbol "5M", purchase price indicia 152 in the form of the amount "\$10", and stock identification indicia 154 in the form of the words "insurance (brokers)", "insurance (life & health)", "insurance (multi line)" and "insurance (property & casualty)". The third financials stock space 142 preferably includes space identification indicia 156 in the form of the symbol "5L", purchase price indicia 158 in the form of the amount "\$5", and stock identification indicia 160 in the form of the words "banks (major regional)", "banks (money centers)", "banks (regional)" and "consumer finance". The group identification area 162 for the financials stock group includes, among other things, the distinguishing indicia 164 for that group (i.e., the numeral "5"). It is also noted that the group distinguishing indicia forms part of the space symbols 144,150,156. As shown in FIG. 2c, the spaces 138,140,142 of the financials stock group are located along the side of the board 12 that is adjacent but perpendicular to the side along which the consumer cyclicals stock spaces 102,104,106,108 are located.

As perhaps best shown in FIG. 2d, the sixth stock group is healthcare and consists of three stock spaces 166,168,170. The first stock space 166 is separated from the second space 168 by one of the utilities stock spaces described hereinbelow, while the second and third spaces 168,170 are adjacent one another. More particularly, the first stock space 166 preferably includes space identification indicia 172 in the form of the symbol "6K", purchase price indicia 174 in the form of the amount "\$15", and stock identification indicia 176 in the form of the words "healthcare (drugs, generic & other)", "healthcare (major pharmaceuticals)" and "healthcare (medical products & supplies)". The second healthcare stock space 168 preferably includes space identification indicia 178 in the form of the symbol "6J", purchase price indicia 180 in the form of the amount "\$10", and stock identification indicia 182 in the form of the words "biotechnology" and "healthcare (diversified)". The third healthcare stock space 170 preferably includes space identification indicia 184 in the form of the symbol "6I", purchase price indicia 186 in the form of the amount "\$5", and stock identification

indicia 188 in the form of the words "healthcare (hospital management)", "healthcare (long term care)", "healthcare (managed care)" and "healthcare (specialized services)". The group identification area 190 for the healthcare stock group includes, among other things, the distinguishing indicia 192 for that group (i.e., the numeral "6"). It is also noted that the group distinguishing indicia forms part of the space symbols 172,178,184. As shown in FIG. 1, the spaces 166,168,170 of the healthcare stock group are located along the same side of the board 12 as the spaces 168,140,142 of the financials stock group.

As perhaps best shown in FIG. 2d, the seventh stock group is technology and consists of three stock spaces 194,196,198, all of which are adjacent one another. The first stock space 194 preferably includes space identification indicia 200 in the form of the symbol "7H", purchase price indicia 202 in the form of the amount "\$15", and stock identification indicia 204 in the form of the words "computers (software & services)", "computers (peripherals)", "computers (networking)" and "computers (hardware)". The second technology stock space 196 preferably includes space identification indicia 206 in the form of the symbol "7G", purchase price indicia 208 in the form of the amount "\$10", and stock identification indicia 210 in the form of the words "electronics (components & distributors)", "electronics (defense)", "electronics (instrumentation)" and "electronics (semiconductors)". The third technology stock space 198 preferably includes space identification indicia 212 in the form of the symbol "7F", purchase price indicia 214 in the form of the amount "\$5", and stock identification indicia 216 in the form of the words "communications equipment", "services (computer systems)", "equipment (semiconductors)" and "services (data processing)". The group identification area 218 for the technology stock group includes, among other things, the distinguishing indicia 220 for that group (i.e., the numeral "7"). It is also noted that the group distinguishing indicia forms part of the space symbols 200,206,212. As shown in FIG. 2d, the spaces 194,196,198 of the technology stock group are located along the side of the board 12 that is adjacent but perpendicular to the side along which the healthcare stock spaces 166,168,170 are located.

As perhaps best shown in FIGS. 2d and 2a, the eighth stock group is consumer staples and consists of three stock spaces 222,224,226, all of which are adjacent one another. The first stock space 222 preferably includes space identification indicia 228 in the form of the symbol "8E", purchase price indicia 230 in the form of the

amount "\$15", and stock identification indicia 232 in the form of the words "personal care", "services (employment)", "entertainment", "services (facilities & environmental)", "specialty printing" and "broadcasting (TV, radio & cable)". The second consumer staples stock space 224 preferably includes space identification indicia 234 in the form of the symbol "8D", purchase price indicia 236 in the form of the amount "\$10", and stock identification indicia 238 in the form of the words "housewares", "retail (drug stores)", "restaurants", "household products (nondurables)" and "retail (food chains)". The third consumer staples stock space 226 preferably includes space identification indicia 240 in the form of the symbol "8C", purchase price indicia 242 in the form of the amount "\$5", and stock identification indicia 244 in the form of the words "foods", "beverages (alcoholic)", "tobacco", "beverages (nonalcoholic)" and "distributors (food & health)". The group identification area 246 for the consumer staples stock group includes, among other things, the distinguishing indicia 248 for that group (i.e., the numeral "8"). It is also noted that the group distinguishing indicia forms part of the space symbols 228,234,240. As shown in FIG. 1, the spaces 222,224,226 of the consumer staples stock group are located along the same side of the board 12 as the spaces 194,196,198 of the technology stock group.

As perhaps best shown in FIG. 2a, the ninth stock group is energy and consists of two stock spaces 250,252. The spaces 250,252 are separated by a space which will be described further. More particularly, the first stock space 250 preferably includes space identification indicia 254 in the form of the symbol "9B", purchase price indicia 256 in the form of the amount "\$10", and stock identification indicia 258 in the form of the words "oil & gas (drilling & equipment)", "oil & gas (exploration & production)" and "oil & gas (refining & marketing)". The second energy stock space 252 preferably includes space identification indicia 260 in the form of the symbol "9A", purchase price indicia 262 in the form of the amount "\$5", and stock identification indicia 264 in the form of the words "oil (domestic integrated)", "power producers (independent)" and "oil (international integrated)". The group identification area 266 for the energy stock group includes, among other things, the distinguishing indicia 268 for that group (i.e., the numeral "9"). It is also noted that the group distinguishing indicia forms part of the space symbols 254,260. As shown in FIG. 2a, the spaces 250,252 of the energy stock group are located along the same side of the board 12 as the spaces 222,224,226 of the consumer staples stock group.

The utilities stock group includes three stock spaces 270,272,274. The first utilities stock space 270 is located adjacent the first capital goods stock space 46 (see FIGS. 2a and 2b). The second utilities stock space 272 is located adjacent the first consumer cyclicals stock space 102. The third utilities stock space 274 is located between the first and second healthcare stock spaces 166,168. The utilities stock spaces 270,272,274 are identical in design, except for differences in the space identification indicia and stock identification indicia. It shall therefore be sufficient to detailedly describe one of the utilities stock spaces and then simply identify the distinctions of the others.

As shown in FIG. 2a, adjacent the top of the first utilities stock space 270 is a group identification area 276 including a border 278, group identification indicia 280 located inside the border 278, and group distinguishing indicia 282 also inside the border 278. The identification indicia 280 is preferably in the form of the word "utilities" and therefore serves to identify the space 270 as being part of the utilities stock group. The group distinguishing indicia 282 is preferably in the form of the numeral "10" and will be used throughout the game to associate things with the utilities group. Similar to the previously described stock spaces, the stock space 270 further includes space identification indicia 284 in the form of the symbol "10A", purchase price indicia 286 in the form of the amount "\$20", and stock identification indicia 288 in the form of the words "electric companies". The utilities stock spaces 270,272,274 all include the same purchase price indicia and group identification area. Furthermore, the stock identification indicia of the spaces 270,272,274 cooperatively present the commonly accepted subgroups of the utilities stock group of the New York Stock Exchange. With particular respect to the distinctions, the second utilities stock space 272 includes space identification indicia 290 in the form of the symbol "10B" and stock identification indicia 292 in the form of the words "natural gas" (see FIG. 2b). The third utilities stock space 274 includes space identification indicia 294 in the form of the symbol "10C" and stock identification indicia 296 in the form of the words "water utilities" (see FIG. 2d).

The communication services stock group also includes three stock spaces 298,300,302. The first communication services stock space 298 is located between the second and third basic materials stock spaces 76 and 78 (see FIG. 2b). The second communication services stock space 300 is located between the second and third financials stock spaces 140 and 142 (see FIG. 2c). The third communication services

stock space 302 is located between the third technology stock space 198 and the first consumer staples stock space 222 (see FIG. 2d). The communication services stock spaces 298,300,302 are identical in design, except for differences in the space identification indicia and stock identification indicia. It shall therefore be sufficient to  
5 detailedly describe one of the communication services stock spaces and then simply identify the distinctions of the others.

As shown in FIG. 2b, adjacent the top of the first communication services stock space 298 is a group identification area 304 including a border 306, group identification indicia 308 located inside the border 278, and group distinguishing indicia  
10 310 also inside the border 278. The identification indicia 308 is preferably in the form of the words "communication services" and therefore serves to identify the space 298 as being part of the communication services stock group. The group distinguishing indicia 310 is preferably in the form of the numeral "11" and will be used throughout the game to associate things with the communication services group. Similar to the  
15 previously described stock spaces, the stock space 298 further includes space identification indicia 312 in the form of the symbol "11A", purchase price indicia 314 in the form of the amount "\$20", and stock identification indicia 316 in the form of the words "telecommunications (cellular/wireless)". The communication services stock spaces 298,300,302 all include the same purchase price indicia and group identification  
20 area. Furthermore, the stock identification indicia of the spaces 298,300,302 cooperatively present the commonly accepted subgroups of the communication services stock group of the New York Stock Exchange. With particular respect to the distinctions, the second communication services stock space 300 includes space identification indicia 318 in the form of the symbol "11B" and stock identification  
25 indicia 320 in the form of the words "telecommunications (long distance)" (see FIG. 2c). The third communication services stock space 302 includes space identification indicia 322 in the form of the symbol "11C" and stock identification indicia 324 in the form of the word "telephone" (see FIG. 2d).

When one of the players moves or is moved to one of the stock spaces,  
30 that player is given the opportunity to purchase the stock represented by that space. Because the illustrated purchase prices for the stock spaces are represented in dollar amounts, the preferred monetary system used to purchase stocks comprises a plurality of faux bills 326 (see FIG. 8). Each of the bills 326 includes value indicia 328 (e.g., "\$10,000") identifying the dollar amount the bill represents. Preferably, the

denominations of the bills are \$25, \$50, \$100, \$500, \$1,000, \$5,000 and \$10,000. The game 10 is preferably provided with fifty \$25 bills, fifty \$50 bills, one hundred \$100 bills, fifty \$500 bills, one hundred \$1,000 bills, fifty \$5,000 bills and thirty \$10,000 bills; although the type of denominations and the number of bills of each denomination may be varied if desired. It is noted that each of the players is preferably provided with bills having a total value of \$25,000 at the start of the game.

As will be described further below, when stock is purchased by a player, a closing value for the purchased stock is determined. In other words, the purchased stock has the potential to immediately change value. The closing value is determined by using a chance indicator which, in the illustrated embodiment, instructs the player to either change the stock value a given amount or to make no change in the present stock value. The preferred game methodology also requires the player to use the chance indicator when landing on a stock space for which stock has already been purchased. In the illustrated embodiment, the chance indicator comprises a plurality of high risk stock value cards 330 (see FIGS. 13a and 13b), a plurality of medium risk stock value cards 332 (see FIGS. 14a and 14b), a plurality of low risk stock value cards 334 (see FIGS. 15a and 15b), and a stock value die 335 (see FIG. 6). Each of the cards 330, 332, 334 identifies either a change or no change in stock value. As will subsequently be indicated, the high risk cards 330 have the potential of increasing the stock value a greater amount than the medium risk cards 332 but also present a relatively greater risk of decreasing the stock value than the medium risk cards 332. The same may be said of the medium risk cards 332 relative to the low risk cards 334.

The top face of each high risk stock value card 330 includes identification indicia 336 so that the card is quickly recognizable as being part of the high risk card set. As shown in FIG. 13a, the identification indicia 336 preferably includes the words "high risk". The opposite bottom face of the high risk card 330 is provided with value change indicia 338 representing a change in stock value or no change indicia (not shown) representing no change in stock value. The value change indicia 338 of the high risk cards 330 preferably identifies whether it is to be considered an increase or decrease in stock value. As shown in FIG. 13b, the indicia 338 includes the symbol "+" to represent an increase in stock value, and it will be appreciated that a decrease in stock value is represented by the symbol "-". The principles of the present invention are equally applicable to various other symbols or means for distinguishing between an increase and decrease in stock value. For example, color coding may be



used, such as coloring the value change amount in green to represent an increase in value or in red to represent a decrease. The no change indicia is preferably in the form of an ellipses (e.g., "...").

5 There are preferably a total of forty high risk cards 330, seven of which include no change indicia, eleven of which include value change indicia 338 representing an increase in stock value and twenty-two of which include value change indicia 338 representing a decrease in stock value. The eleven cards with stock value increase indicia preferably represent dollar increase amounts per share as follows: one  
10 card identifying an increase of \$3.25, one card identifying an increase of \$6.25, one card identifying an increase of \$12.50, three cards identifying an increase of \$25.00, two cards identifying an increase of \$75.00 and one card identifying an increase of \$100.00. The twenty-two cards with stock value decrease indicia preferably represent dollar decrease amounts per share as follows: one card identifying a decrease of \$0.75, three  
15 cards identifying a decrease of \$1.50, four cards identifying a decrease of \$3.25, one card identifying a decrease of \$4.25, four cards identifying a decrease of \$6.25, one card identifying a decrease of \$9.50, three cards identifying a decrease of \$12.50, one card identifying a decrease of \$18.75, two cards identifying a decrease of \$25.00, one card identifying a decrease of \$37.50 and one card identifying a decrease of \$50.00.

As perhaps best shown in FIG. 2c, the illustrated board 12 is provided  
20 with an undrawn high risk card space 340 and a drawn high risk card space 342, both of which are spaced inward of the financials group identification area 162. The high risk cards that have not been drawn by one of the players are stacked on the space 340, while drawn cards are discarded to the space 342. The board 12 is preferably also provided with a high risk card listing space 344 that includes indicia 346 identifying the  
25 total number of high risk cards 330. Although not shown, the preferred indicia 346 also identifies the number of cards having no change indicia, the number of cards having stock value increase indicia, the number of cards having stock value decrease indicia, and each of the various amounts of increase or decrease in stock value represented by the cards having value change indicia 338. The card listing space 344  
30 is aligned with and spaced just inward of the undrawn card space 340. It is also noted that the undrawn high risk card space 340 includes minimum stock value indicia 348 in the form of the dollar amount "10". As will subsequently be described, the players are limited to selecting among the high, medium and low risk cards depending upon the present value of the stock for which the closing value is being determined. Particularly,

the player is not permitted to draw one of the high risk cards 330 unless the present per share value of the stock is at least the value represented by the indicia 348.

Similar to the high risk cards 330, the top face of each medium risk stock value card 332 includes identification indicia 350 so that the card is quickly recognizable as being part of the medium risk card set. As shown in FIG. 14a, the identification indicia 350 preferably includes the words "medium risk". The opposite bottom face of the medium risk card 332 is provided with value change indicia 352 representing a change in stock value or no change indicia (not shown) representing no change in stock value. Another similarity to the high risk cards 330 is that the value change indicia 352 identifies whether it is to be considered an increase or decrease in stock value. As shown in FIG. 14b, the indicia 352 includes the symbol "-" to represent a decrease in stock value, and it will be appreciated that an increase in stock value is represented by the symbol "+". As with the high risk cards 330, various alternatives to the symbols may be used. Furthermore, the no change indicia is preferably in the form of an ellipses (e.g., "...").

There are preferably a total of thirty-two medium risk cards 332, six of which include no change indicia, ten of which include value change indicia 352 representing an increase in stock value and sixteen of which include value change indicia 352 representing a decrease in stock value. The ten cards with stock value increase indicia preferably represent dollar increase amounts per share as follows: one card identifying an increase of \$3.25, three cards identifying an increase of \$6.25, two cards identifying an increase of \$12.25, one card identifying an increase of \$18.75, one card identifying an increase of \$25.00, one card identifying an increase of \$37.75 and one card identifying an increase of \$50.00. The sixteen cards with stock value decrease indicia preferably represent dollar decrease amounts per share as follows: one card identifying a decrease of \$0.75, five cards identifying a decrease of \$1.50, four cards identifying a decrease of \$3.25, three cards identifying a decrease of \$6.25, two cards identifying a decrease of \$12.50 and one card identifying a decrease of \$25.00.

Similar to the spaces 340,342,344 for the high risk card set, the illustrated board 12 is provided with an undrawn medium risk card space 354, a drawn medium risk card space 356 and a medium risk card listing space 358 (see FIG. 2d). The medium risk card spaces 354,356,358 are aligned relative to one another and spaced inward of the healthcare group identification area 190. It will be appreciated that the medium risk card spaces 354,356,358 are similar to the high risk card spaces

340,342,344. Particularly, the card listing space 358 identifies the same type of information identified by the high risk card listing space 344, such that the space 358 includes indicia 360 identifying, among other things, each of the medium risk cards 332. Furthermore, the undrawn medium risk card space 354 includes minimum stock value indicia 362 in the form of the dollar amount "5".

Similar to the both the high and medium risk cards 330 and 332, the top face of each low risk stock value card 334 includes identification indicia 364 so that the card is quickly recognizable as being part of the low risk card set. As shown in FIG. 15a, the identification indicia 364 preferably includes the words "low risk". The opposite bottom face of the low risk card 334 is provided with value change indicia (not shown) representing a change in stock value or no change indicia 366 representing no change in stock value. As previously noted, the no change indicia 366 is preferably in the form of an ellipses (e.g., "..."). Moreover, contrary to the high and medium risk cards 330 and 332, the value change indicia of the low risk cards 334 does not indicate whether it is to be considered an increase or decrease in stock value. But rather the stock value die 335 is used by the player to determine whether the value change indicia involves an increase or decrease in stock value or whether the value change indicia should be ignored altogether. If desired, it is entirely within the ambit of the present invention to provide value change indicia on the high and medium risk cards that, similar to the low risk cards 334, does not indicate whether the change should be considered an increase or decrease in stock value. In this respect, the stock value die 335 or some alternative die or mechanism may be used with such alternative medium and high risk cards to determine whether the value change indicia shall be considered an increase or decrease in stock value.

As shown in FIG. 6, the stock value die 335 is a standard six-sided die, however, the indicia provided on the sides is unique to this game. Particularly, three of the sides 368,370,372 include respective indicia 374,376,378 indicating that the value change indicia of the low risk card should be considered an increase in stock value. It is particularly noted that there are two forms of stock value increase indicia, one in the shape of a bull (indicia 376,378) to represent a bull market and another in the shape of a green-colored arrow (indicia 374) so as to be consistent with the color-coding of the high and medium risk cards 330 and 332. Two sides 380,382 of the die 335 include respective stock value decrease indicia 384,386. Similar to the stock value increase indicia 374,376,378, the stock value decrease indicia 384,386 is in two forms,

one in the shape of a bear (indicia 384) to represent a bear market and another in the shape of a red-colored arrow (indicia 386) so as to be consistent with the color-coding of the high and medium risk cards 330 and 332. The final side 388 of the die 335 includes indicia 390 representing no change in stock value. As shown in FIG. 6, the indicia 390 preferably includes the words "no change" and an ellipses.

A player who decides to draw one of the low risk cards 334 is preferably required to roll the die 335 before the card is drawn, although it entirely within the ambit of the present invention to roll the die 335 after the low risk card is drawn. In this respect, there is no need for the player to draw a low risk card 334 when the no change side 388 of the die 335 is rolled. However, if any of the other sides 368,370,372,380,382 of the die are rolled, the player must select one of the low risk cards 334. If the game alternatively involves drawing a low risk card 334 before the die 335 is rolled, then the die 335 need not be rolled when a low risk card 334 having no change indicia 366 is drawn.

There are preferably a total of fifty-four low risk cards 334, seven of which include no change indicia 366 and forty-seven of which include value change indicia. The forty-seven cards with value change indicia preferably represent dollar change amounts per share as follows: sixteen cards identifying a change of \$0.25, ten cards identifying a change of \$0.50, six cards identifying a change of \$0.75, five cards identifying a change of \$1.00, four cards identifying a change of \$2.00, three cards identifying a change of \$3.00, two cards identifying a change of \$4.00 and one card identifying a change of \$5.00.

It is noted that the board 12 is also provided with an undrawn low risk card space 392 (see FIG. 2d), a drawn low risk card space 394 and a low risk card listing space 396 (see FIG. 2b). The undrawn and drawn card spaces 392 and 394 are aligned relative to one another and spaced between the high risk card spaces 340,344 and medium risk card spaces 354,358. The card listing space 396 is spaced inward and offset to the right of the undrawn card space 392. The low risk card spaces 392,394,396 are similar to the high risk card spaces 340,342,344 and medium risk card spaces 354,356,358. It is particularly noted that the low risk card listing space 396 preferably includes indicia 398 identifying each of the low risk cards 334, as well as other information similar to that described above with respect to the high risk card listing indicia 346. Furthermore, the undrawn low risk card space 392 includes minimum stock value indicia 400 in the form of the dollar amount "1/4". The board 12 is also

provided with a stock value die space 402 located alongside the card listing space 396 (see FIGS. 1 and 2a). If desired, the stock value die 335 may be located on the space 402 when it is not being used. Moreover, the stock value space 402 is provided with indicia 404 in the form of the words "bull or bear dice" to identify the stock value die 335. Although not shown, the indicia 404 preferably also identifies each of the sides of the die 335.

In view of the foregoing, it will be appreciated that there is a greater risk of reducing the stock value when drawing one of the high risk cards 330 as opposed to the medium risk cards 332. However, the possible increases in stock value are higher with the high risk cards 330 than those of the medium risk cards 332. The same relationships may be said of the medium risk cards 332 relative to the low risk cards 334 (taking into account of course the stock value die 335). The low risk cards 334 cooperatively present the lowest risk of reducing the stock value but also provide the smallest potential increases in stock values. The high risk cards 330 cooperatively present the highest risk of reducing stock value and the greatest potential stock value reduction amounts but also the greatest potential stock value increase amounts. The medium risk cards 332 fall somewhere between the low and high risk card sets.

It is particularly noted that the high risk cards 330 cooperatively present a range of change values (i.e., from a decrease of \$50.00 per share to an increase of \$100.00 per share) that is greater than the range of change values for the medium risk cards 332 (i.e., from a decrease of \$25.00 per share to an increase of \$50.00 per share). Both of these ranges are greater than the range of change values for the low risk cards 334 (i.e., no more than \$5.00 increase or decrease). In addition, there are twice as many high risk cards 330 having value change indicia representing a stock value decrease than cards having value change indicia representing a stock value increase (i.e., twenty-two high risk cards with stock value decrease indicia versus eleven cards with stock value increase indicia). Similarly, there are a greater number of medium risk cards 332 having stock decrease indicia than medium risk cards having stock increase indicia (i.e., sixteen cards with stock value decrease indicia versus ten cards with stock value increase indicia). It will also be appreciated that the high risk card set has a greater proportion of cards with stock value decrease indicia to cards with stock value increase indicia than the medium risk card set. Furthermore, when drawing one of the low risk cards 334, there is a greater likelihood that the stock value will increase than decrease. This is attributable to the fact that the stock value die 335 has three sides 368, 370, 372

with indicia representing a stock value increase and only two sides 380,382 with indicia representing a stock value decrease.

Returning to the path 16, there are three global risk spaces 406,408,410 disbursed among the stock spaces along the path. The first global risk space 406 is located between the transportation stock spaces 18 and 20 (see FIG. 2a). The second global risk space 408 is located between the basic materials stock space 78 and the utilities stock space 272 (see FIG. 2b). The third global risk space 410 is located between the financials stock space 142 and the healthcare stock space 166 (see FIGS. 2c and 2d). The global risk spaces 406,408,410 are identical in design, and it shall therefore be sufficient to describe just one of these spaces with the understanding that the other spaces are identical. With respect to the first global risk space 406, indicia 412 including the words "global risk cards" is provided within the space.

Associated with the global risk spaces 406,408,410 are a plurality of global risk cards 414 (see FIGS. 11a and 11b), one of which is drawn when a player lands on one of the global risk spaces. As shown in FIG. 11b, each of the global risk cards 414 includes indicia 416 that represents an increase or decrease in the value of at least one of the stocks. The indicia 416 shown in FIG. 11b is in the form of stock identification (e.g., "stock 2V"), an upwardly pointing arrow, and a value increase dollar amount of "9". This exemplary global risk card shown in FIG. 11b consequently represents a \$9.00 per share increase for the stock represented by the third capital goods space 50.

There are preferably a total of sixty global risk cards 414. There are two cards for each of the eleven stock groups, with one of the cards representing a \$5.00 per share increase in value and the other representing a \$2.50 per share decrease in value. For example, there is a card representing a \$5.00 per share increase in value of the transportation stock and another representing a \$2.50 per share decrease in value of the transportation stock. The values for the stocks represented by both the transportation stock spaces 18 and 20 are both affected by each of these cards. For each of the stock spaces having an initial purchase price of \$5.00 as shown in the drawings (i.e., stock spaces 18, 46, 78, 108, 142, 170, 198, 226 and 252), there is one corresponding global risk card representing a \$3.00 per share increase in value and another global risk card representing \$1.50 per share decrease in value. Of these spaces, the stock spaces 18 and 46 are identified on the same card, the spaces 78 and 108 are identified on the same card, the spaces 142 and 170 are identified on the same card, and the spaces 198,226

and 252 are identified on the same card. There are consequently a total of eight global risk cards identifying the stocks having an initial purchase price of \$5.00. Two of the global risk cards, one representing a \$6.00 per share increase in value and another representing a \$3.00 per share decrease in value, are provided for each of the stock spaces having an initial purchase price of \$10.00 (i.e., stock spaces 20, 48, 76, 106, 140, 168, 196, 224 and 250). Of these spaces, the stock spaces 20 and 48 are identified on the same card, the stock spaces 76 and 106 are identified on the same card, the stock spaces 140 and 168 are identified on the same card, and the stock spaces 196, 224 and 250 are identified on the same card. There are consequently a total of eight global risk cards identifying the stocks having an initial purchase price of \$10.00. For each of the stock spaces having an initial purchase price of \$15.00 (i.e., stock spaces 50, 74, 104, 138, 166, 194 and 222), there is one corresponding global risk card representing a \$9.00 per share increase in value and another global risk card representing a \$4.50 per share decrease in value. Of these spaces, the stock space 50 is identified singly on one of the global risk cards, the stock spaces 74 and 104 are identified on the same card, the stock spaces 138 and 166 are identified on the same card, and the stock spaces 194 and 22 are identified on the same card. There are consequently a total of eight global risk cards identifying the stocks having an initial purchase price of \$15.00. There is one global risk card representing an \$18.00 per share increase in value and another representing a \$9.00 decrease in value for each of the stock spaces having an initial purchase price of \$20.00 (i.e., the stock spaces 270, 298, 272, 102, 300, 274 and 302). All of these spaces are identified on separate cards, such that there are a total of fourteen global risk cards identifying the stock spaces having an initial purchase price of \$20.00.

Preferably, when one of the global risk cards 414 is drawn, it affects both the closing value and the purchase price of the stock. That is to say, any player who owns the stock identified on the drawn global risk card, must change the stock value accordingly. Additionally, the purchase price for the identified stock is changed the same amount. For example, with respect to the card shown in FIG. 11b, the purchase price for stock 2V (i.e., the stock represented by the capital goods space 50) is increased by \$9.00 and all players owning shares of that stock receive an increase in value of \$9.00 per share.

To help keep track of the current purchase price for a stock and to facilitate changing of the purchase price, a plurality of laminated disks 418 are provided (only one of the disks being shown in FIGS. 9a and 9b). Each disk 418 is preferably

circular in shape and presents opposite faces 420 and 422. The face 420 includes indicia 424 in the form of a line and the symbol "\$" (see FIG. 9a), and preferably one of the players erasably writes the current purchase price for the stock space on the face 420. Because the purchase price of each of the stock spaces may vary, there are preferably at least as many disks 418 as stock spaces. The face 422 includes indicia 426 in the form of a line and the words "# of shares" (see FIG. 9b). In the preferred embodiment, only one thousand shares are available for each of the stock spaces, and the face 422 consequently permits the players to keep track of the number of shares available for that stock space. If desired, each disk 418 is placed on a corresponding one of the stock spaces while the game 10 is played. Additionally, a plurality of standard dry erase markers (not shown) may be provided to facilitate use of the disks 418.

The board 12 is provided with an undrawn global risk card space 426 and a drawn global risk card space 427 (see FIG. 2b). The spaces 426 and 427 are located inward of the basic materials group of stock spaces 74,76,78 and are positioned along a line that is generally parallel to that side of the path 16.

The path 16 is further defined by a start space 428 and a return to start space 430. The spaces 428 and 430 are located at opposite corners of the path 16, with the start space 428 being located between the transportation stock space 18 and the energy stock space 252 (see FIG. 2a) and the return to start space 430 being located between the consumer cyclicals space 108 and the financial space 138 (see FIG. 2c). The return to start space 430 is consequently midway along the path 16 relative to the start space 428. The players preferably begin at the start space 428, and this is preferably identified by indicia 432 such as the words "start your work week". The start space 428 preferably also includes monetary award indicia 434 in the form of the words "full week \$400" and "half week \$200". The return to start space 430 includes indicia 436 instructing a player who has moved to the space 430 to return to the start space 428. As shown in FIG. 2c, the indicia 436 is preferably in the form of words "go to start, 1/2 work = 1/2 pay". As instructed by the indicia 434 of the start space 428, a player who makes it entirely around the path 16 will be awarded \$400, while a player who makes it only halfway around the path 16 (i.e., a player who is returned to the start space 428 as a result of landing on the return to start space 430) will be awarded \$200.

A confinement space 438 and a busted space 440 are located at the other opposite corners of the path 16. In this respect, the confinement space 438 is located



between the capital goods stock space 50 and the basic materials stock space 74 (see FIG. 2b), and the busted space 440 is located between the healthcare stock space 170 and the technology stock space 194 (see FIG. 2d). The busted space 440 has indicia 442 representing a conviction for insider trading. The indicia 442 includes the words "insider trading", as shown in FIG. 2d, and further includes wording identifying first, second and third offenses. Preferably, the first offense involves a \$500 penalty and two missed turns, a second offense involves a \$1,000 penalty and three missed turns, and the third offense involves a \$3,000 penalty and the end of the game for that player. The type of offense corresponds with the number of times that a player has moved to the busted space 440. For example, the second time a player lands on the busted space 440, that player will be required to relinquish \$1,000 and skip three turns. It is also noted that a player who lands on the busted space 440 is relocated to the confinement space 438 and remains in the confinement space 438 during the missed turns. As shown in FIG. 2b, the confinement space 438 includes four game piece areas 444, 446, 448, 450 to help track the number of turns lost by a player. The areas 444, 446, 448, 450 include respective indicia in form of "spot 4", "spot 3", "spot 2" and "spot 1". Thus, a player required to skip two turns will initially move to area 448 and, after the first turn is skipped, to the area 450.

As shown in FIG. 2a, the path 16 further includes two spaces 452, 454 each representing a monetary penalty for any player who moves to that space. The space 452 is located between the transportation stock space 20 and the utilities stock space 270, while the space 454 is located between the energy stock spaces 250 and 252. The space 452 has indicia 456 including the words "internal revenue service audit". Although not shown, the indicia 456 also includes various monetary penalties depending upon the total amount of cash (in the form of the bills 326) currently held by the player. The penalties are preferably as follows: \$250 must be relinquished when the total cash in hand is less than \$2,500; \$500 must be relinquished when the total cash in hand exceeds \$2,500 but is less than \$5,000; \$1,000 must be relinquished when the total cash in hand exceeds \$5,000 but is less than \$7,500; \$2,000 must be relinquished when the total cash in hand exceeds \$7,500 but is less than \$10,000; and \$3,500 must be relinquished when the total cash in hand exceeds \$10,000. The space 454 has indicia in the form of the words "broker fees due" and the amount "\$250". Accordingly, a player who moves or is moved to the space 454 is required to relinquish \$250.

Finally, the path 16 includes three personal risk spaces 458,460,462 dispersed among the stock spaces along the path. The first personal risk space 458 is located between the capital goods stock spaces 46 and 48 (see FIG. 2b). The second personal risk space 460 is located between the consumer cyclicals stock spaces 102 and 104 (see FIG. 2c). The third personal risk space 462 is located between the consumer staples stock space 226 and the energy stock space 250 (see FIG. 2a). The personal risk spaces 458,460,462 are identical in design, and it shall therefore be sufficient to describe just one of these spaces with the understanding that the other spaces are identical. With respect to the first personal risk space 458, indicia 464 including the words "personal risk cards" is provided within the space.

Associated with the personal risk spaces 458,460,462 are a plurality of personal risk cards 466a (see FIGS. 10a and 10b) and 466b (see FIGS. 12a and 12b). A player who moves or is moved to one of the personal risk spaces 458,460,462 is required to draw one of the cards 466a shown in FIG. 10a and, if instructed to do so by that card, to also draw one of the cards 466b shown in FIG. 12a. As will subsequently be described, the cards 466a shown in FIG. 10a include indicia representing a monetary award or penalty or indicia representing no monetary impact to the player. For example, the card 466a shown in FIG. 10b includes monetary penalty indicia in the form of the words "car accident \$1500 damage". When this card is drawn, the player must relinquish \$1500 unless an insurance policy, as identified below, has been obtained. The top face of each of the cards 466a includes indicia 470 identifying the card as being one of the personal risk cards. As will also be subsequently be described, the cards 466b shown in FIG. 12a include indicia representing a monetary penalty and a number of turns to be skipped by the player. For example, the card 466b shown in FIG. 12b includes lost turn indicia 472 representing the number of turns to be skipped by the player and monetary penalty indicia 474 representing the amount of money to be relinquished by the player. The illustrated lost turn indicia 472 includes the numeral "1" thereby requiring the player to lose one turn, while the monetary penalty indicia 474 represents a \$200 penalty for the first DWI offense, a \$300 penalty for the second DWI offense, and a \$1250 penalty for the third DWI offense. The top face of each of the cards 466b includes indicia 476 including the words "judgement day" so as to separate the cards 466b from the cards 466a shown in FIG. 10a.

A total of thirty-three cards 466a are preferably provided in the game 10. Of these cards 466a, ten include indicia (not shown) representing no monetary penalty

or award for the player. This indicia is preferably in the form of the word "relax" and a design often referred to as a "smiley face". The preferred card set 466a further includes five cards including indicia (not shown) representing a monetary award to the player. The monetary award indicia is preferably in the form of the words "good night at the casino! \$500", "state income tax return \$200", "federal income tax return \$500", "Christmas bonus \$200", or "employee of the month \$150". When a player draws one of these cards, he/she is awarded the amount indicated. There are preferably six of the cards 466a that include indicia representing a monetary penalty to the player (e.g., the indicia 468 shown in FIG. 10b). Beyond the monetary penalty indicia 468 shown in FIG. 10b, the monetary penalty indicia is preferably in the form of the words "car accident \$1000", "car accident (liability) \$1200", "bad night at the casino! \$500", "state income tax (you owe) \$200", or "federal income tax (you owe) \$500". Nine of the cards 466a have indicia (not shown) representing various car insurance policies that may be purchased by the player to minimize the monetary penalty identified on the cards having car accident indicia (such as the card shown in FIG. 10b). A player is not required to purchase the insurance represented on the card; however, if the insurance is purchased, the player preferably retains the card in his/her possession until the insurance is used. The player must discard the insurance card once it is used and must again purchase one of the policies to obtain insurance coverage. It is also noted that several types of insurance policies are provided. Particularly, two of the cards 466a include indicia representing a \$200 premium for a full coverage policy having a \$250 deductible; three of the cards 466a include indicia representing a \$100 premium for a full coverage policy having a \$500 deductible; two of the cards 466a include indicia representing a \$100 premium for a liability only policy having a \$500 deductible; one of the cards 466a includes indicia representing a \$150 premium for a liability only policy having a \$250 deductible; and one of the cards 466a includes indicia representing a \$300 premium for a full coverage policy having a \$0 deductible. The premium is the amount the player pays for the insurance, and the insurance coverage lessens the monetary penalty represented by one of the car accident cards (such as that shown in FIG. 10b) the identified coverage amount minus the amount of any deductible. The liability policies may only be used to mitigate the monetary penalty of the card identifying a "liability" accident, while the full coverage policies may be used on any of the car accident cards. Finally, the card set 466a includes one card having indicia (not shown) representing a first driving while intoxicated ("DWT") offense, one card

having indicia (not shown) representing a second DWI offense, and one card having indicia (not shown) representing a third DWI offense. Each of these cards requires the player to draw one of the judgement day cards 466b shown in FIG. 12a.

5 There are a total of thirteen judgement day cards 466b. Six of the cards 466b include the lost turn indicia 472 and monetary penalty indicia 474 shown in FIG. 12b. The remaining judgement day cards are similar to that shown in FIG. 12b, except for differences in the lost turn and monetary penalty indicia. Particularly, four of the remaining cards have lost turn indicia including the numeral "2" and monetary penalty indicia representing a \$300 penalty for the first DWI offense, a \$500 penalty for the second DWI offense, and a \$1750 penalty for the third DWI offense. Two of the remaining judgement day cards have lost turn indicia including the numeral "3" and monetary penalty indicia representing a \$400 penalty for the first DWI offense, a \$750 penalty for the second DWI offense, and a \$3000 penalty for the third DWI offense. The final judgement day card has lost turn indicia including the numeral "4" and monetary penalty indicia representing a \$500 penalty for the first DWI offense, a \$1000 penalty for the second DWI offense, and a \$5000 penalty for the third DWI offense. A player, who is required to draw one of the judgement day cards 466b as a result of drawing one of the DWI cards of the personal risk card set 466a, must consequently lose the number of turns represented by the lost turn indicia. Preferably, the player will be required to move to the confinement space 438 and remain thereon until all of the turns have been skipped, as described above. Furthermore, the player will be required to relinquish the monetary penalty for the first, second, or third offense depending upon which of the DWI cards had been drawn. For example, if the player draws the DWI card representing a second DWI offense, the player must relinquish the monetary amount for the second DWI offense identified on the judgement card 466b.

25 Similar to the card spaces 426 and 427 for the global risk cards 414, the board 12 includes an undrawn personal risk card space 477 and a spaced drawn personal risk card space 478 spaced inwardly from the consumer staples and energy stock group identification areas 246 and 266 (see FIG. 2a). The personal risk cards 466a are normally located on the space 477 until they are drawn and discarded to the space 478. Located between the card spaces 477 and 478 is a judgement day card space 479. The judgement day cards 466b may be placed on the card space 479. Because the judgement day cards 466b are preferably shuffled before a player draws one of the judgement day cards 466b, the board does not include a drawn judgement day card space.

Player movement along the path is represented by a plurality of game pieces 480 (see FIG. 7), with each of the pieces 480 representing one of the players. Although the illustrated game piece 480 has a generally standard construction, the principles of the present invention are equally applicable to various other game piece designs. For example, the game may alternatively be provided with a plurality of variously shaped game pieces, such as game pieces in the shape of a bull, a bear, a gavel, a bell, a dollar sign (e.g., "\$"), a podium, a pocket watch having indicia indicating that the market is open, a pocket watch having indicia indicating that the market is closed, a "Wall Street" street sign, a tombstone having indicia representing the inception of the New York Stock Exchange, etc.

Player movement along the path is controlled by a pair of standard dice 481,482 (see FIG. 7). As is customary, the sides of each die 481 or 482 includes indicia in the form of spots numbering one to six. The game preferably involves having each player roll the dice 481,482 to determine the number of spaces that the player's game piece 480 is to be moved along the path 16. The principles of the present invention are equally applicable to various other devices for providing a random space count for player movement. For example, a numbered spinning wheel (such as that used in the board game sold under the designation "LIFE") may be used.

The game 10 further includes a plurality of stock portfolio booklets 484 (only one being shown in FIGS. 3 and 4), each of which serves as a log for one of the players to assist the player with, among other things, tracking of the number of shares purchased of a stock and the present closing value for the stock. The preferred booklet 484 comprises a plurality of laminated sheets 486 provided between top and bottom covers 488 and 490. In the illustrated embodiment, the sheets 486 and covers 488,490 are bound to one another by a so-called "GBC binding" element 492, although other suitable binding devices or arrangements may be used. The sheets 486 and covers 488,490 present numerous pages in which indicia is provided, as will subsequently be described. Each of the stock groups is represented on a separate one of the sheets 486, such that there are a total of eleven sheets.

As shown in FIG. 4, the communication services stock group is represented on the eleventh sheet, which corresponds with the group distinguishing indicia 310. This sheet not only includes indicia 494 in the form of the words "communication services stock" but also a laterally projecting tab 496 having indicia 498 in the form of the numeral "11". The page is provided with indicia 500 that is

identical to the space identification indicia 312 for the first communication services stock space 298, as well as indicia 502 representing the initial purchase price for that stock space 298. The other two communication services stock spaces 300 and 302 are similarly identified by respective indicia 504,506 and 508,510. The indicia 500,504,508 identifying the three communication services stock spaces are positioned in a column below heading indicia 512 in the form of the word "stock". Similar heading indicia 514 in the form of the word "original value" is similarly provided for the column of purchase price indicia 502,506,510. A column of shares purchased spaces 516,518,520 is provided under heading indicia 521 in the form of the words "# shares", and a column of closing value spaces 522,524,526 is provided under heading indicia 528 in the form of the word "close". The spaces 516,518,520,522,524,526 are blank and therefore permit the player to input the number of shares purchased and closing value of the stock represented by each of the spaces 298,300,302. Because the sheets 486 are preferably laminated, the player may erasably write information within the spaces 516,518,520,522,524,526. Again, the game 10 is provided with dry erase markers (not shown) for use with the portfolio booklet 484. Each of the communication services stock spaces is consequently represented along a horizontal row including the stock space identification indicia, the initial purchase price indicia, and player inputted information including the number of shares purchased and the present closing value per share. A column of stock value spaces 530,532,534 is provided under heading indicia 536 in the form of the words "\$ stock value". The stock value spaces 530,532,534 permit the player to removably input the total dollar value for the shares purchased (the player preferably enters a value amount determined by multiplying the number of shares purchased and the closing value per share). A total value space 538 is provided below the stock value spaces 530,532,534 and alongside indicia 540 in the form of the words "total stocks value". The space 538 permits the player to enter the aggregate value of all owned communication services stock.

It will be appreciated that the sheets 486 for each of the other stock groups are arranged and constructed in essentially the same manner as that just described for the communication services stock group. Accordingly, these other sheets will not be described in detail. It is also noted that the inside face 542 of the top cover 488 includes a low risk card listing space 544, a medium risk card listing space 546, and a high risk listing space 548. The low risk card listing spaces 544 includes indicia 550 that is similar to the indicia 398 provided in the card listing space 396 of the board

12. The medium risk and high risk card listing spaces 546 and 548 are provided with similar card listing indicia 552 and 554, respectively. If desired, the inside face 556 of the bottom cover 490 is provided with a grand total space (not shown) in which the total value of the player's stock portfolio may be entered.

5           It will be appreciated that the principles of the present invention are equally applicable to various other devices capable of permitting input and storage of the stock purchased by the players and the closing value per share for those stocks. For example, a single log may be provided for all of the players. Alternatively, each player may be provided with a computerized portfolio device that stores inputted information  
10       and is capable of processing the information to automatically calculate total stock and stock group values and a grand total for the portfolio. It is noted that, with the preferred stock portfolio booklets 484, the game 10 is preferably provided with a calculator (not shown) to assist the players with calculating stock values and other calculations while playing the game.

15           In the preferred game method, players will be given the opportunity to purchase stock sold by one of the players. Such bidding is facilitated by a silent bid card 558 having indicia 560 identifying it as such. The card 558 is preferably laminated so that any writings on the card with one of the dry erase markers (not shown) are erasable. The card 558 is provided with a bid value space 562, in which the player  
20       enters the price he/she is willing to pay for the stock, and a shares bid space 564, in which the player enters the number of shares he/she wishes to purchase at the bid price. As will subsequently be indicated, it may be desirable to change the number written in the space 564 when the number of shares purchased by the bid is different than the number of shares for which the bid was made. Each of the bidding players is provided  
25       with one of the silent bid cards 558 and the game 10 consequently includes a plurality of the cards 558. As will subsequently be described, the closing value for stock purchased from another player may be different than the price paid for that stock. Accordingly, the bid card 558 includes a closing value space 566 in which the player may enter the closing value per share. The final value of the shares purchased from  
30       another player (i.e., the number of shares purchased multiplied by the closing value per share) is preferably entered in a silent bid value space 568. The card 558 is arranged to facilitate revaluation of a player's stock when the player purchases stock through a successful bid and already owns shares of that stock. Particularly, the card 558 includes a stock identification space 570 located below the closing value space 566. The

alphanumeric identification for the stock (e.g., 1Z) is entered within the space 570. Below the shares bid space 564 is a prior shares owned space 572 in which the player enters the number of shares owned before the bid. A prior stock value space 574 is located below the silent bid value space 568. It will be appreciated that the player may simply transfer information from the stock portfolio booklet 484 to the spaces 572 and 574. Once the closing value per share for the stock purchased by a silent bid is determined, the total value of the purchased shares is entered in space 568 and this value may then be added to that entered in space 574, as represented by the symbol 576. A total stock value space 578 is provided so that the player may enter the result of this addition. The number of shares purchased by the bid (i.e., the number entered in space 564) is added to the number of shares previously owned (i.e., the number entered in space 572), as represented by symbol 579, and the aggregate amount may be entered in a total shares space 580. The closing value for all of the owned shares (the previously owned shares and the shares purchased by the silent bid) may simply be calculated by dividing the value in space 578 by the number in space 580, as represented by symbol 582. The card 558 includes an average closing value space 584 in which the closing value for all of the owned shares may be entered. Upon making the above-noted calculations, the information contained within the spaces 578, 580, 584 is transferred to the appropriate spaces within the portfolio booklet 484.

The method of playing the game 10 should be at least somewhat apparent from the foregoing description. Thus, it shall be sufficient to explain that the preferred game method begins with players' game pieces 480 being placed on the start space 428 and each player being given an initial amount of money (preferably \$25,000). The players each take a turn rolling the die 481, 482 and moving the number of spaces indicated thereby. Player movement along the path 16 is preferably in a clockwise direction, when viewing FIG. 1.

When a player moves to one of the stock spaces, the player is given the opportunity to purchase the stock represented by that space. The player is not required to purchase any stock; however, if stock is purchased, the player is preferably limited to purchasing the stock in increments of one hundred shares. To purchase stock, the player must relinquish an amount of money (preferably in the form of the faux bills 326) equal to the purchase price value of the stock. The purchase price value of the stock is determined simply by multiplying the present purchase price per share of the stock by the number of shares purchased. It is preferred that the player have enough



faux bills 326 in hand to pay for the stock. That is to say, the preferred game method does not permit stock to be traded for stock. It is noted that any payment made by a player for stock or for monetary penalties is returned to a central depository in which unused faux bills 326 are stored. One of the players is preferably in charge of controlling money movement in and out of the depository.

Once a player has purchased stock, a closing value for the stock must be determined. In the illustrated embodiment, this is accomplished by having the player draw one of the stock value cards 330,332,334. Of course, the cards may alternatively be dealt to the player. In any case, the player is limited to selecting from the low, medium or high risk cards depending on the present value per share of the stock. As noted above, one of the high risk cards 330 may only be drawn when the value per share is at least \$10, and one of the medium risk cards 332 may only be drawn when the value per share is at least \$5. Because the preferred absolute minimum value per share for all the stocks is \$0.25, one of the low risk cards 334 may always be drawn. It is again noted that the preferred game method requires the player to roll the stock value die 335 before one of the low risk cards 334 is drawn. Once a closing value is determined, the number of shares purchased and closing value for the stock is preferably entered in the player's portfolio booklet 484. It is noted that the closing value determined by the player does not affect the value of the same stock owned by other players. In this respect, several of the players may own shares of the same stock but have different closing values per share for that stock. Only when one of the global risk cards 414 is drawn does the closing value change for all of the players owning shares of the same stock, as will subsequently be described. It is also noted that, after the shares are purchased, the remaining number of available shares is written on the face 422 of one of the laminated disks 418 and this disk is placed on the stock space.

If the player moves to one of the stock spaces for which stock is already owned, the player is permitted to purchase additional shares (assuming all one thousand shares of the stock have not been purchased). The shares are purchased at the current purchase price and a closing value for only the newly purchased shares is determined. The average closing value per share is calculated from the values for the previously purchased shares and newly purchased shares and then entered in the portfolio book 484. In other words, the preferred game method does not require the player to determine a new closing value for previously purchased shares of stock when the player is purchasing additional shares of that stock. However, if the player moves to a stock

space for which stock is already owned and the player decides not to purchase additional stock, the preferred game method requires the player to determine a new closing value for the previously purchased stock. The new closing value is determined by drawing one of the stock value cards 330,332,334, as described hereinabove.

5           As noted above, the players are given an opportunity to keep track of which of the high, medium and low risk cards 330,332,334 have been dealt or drawn. Particularly, players can use the card listing spaces 544,546,548 provided in the portfolio booklet 484 or the listing spaces 344,358,396 provided on the board 12 to monitor which of the cards 330,332,334 have been drawn or dealt. The preferred game  
10       method permits the players to request that any one of the card sets 330,332,334 be reshuffled before that player's turn. Such reshuffling involves combining all of the drawn and undrawn cards and shuffling the combined stack of cards. For example, it may be prudent to make a request for reshuffling when a large proportion of the cards having stock increase indicia have already been drawn or dealt.

15           Each player is not required to roll the die 481,482 and move to another space during his/her turn. Instead, the preferred game method permits the player to alternatively sell stock during his/her turn. This permits the player to gain cash for purchasing additional stock. The player is permitted to sell shares in one hundred share increments of any one of the stocks owned by that player. The player is paid  
20       cash from the depository based on the present closing value for the stock in that player's portfolio. Moreover, the shares sold by the player are immediately available for purchase by any of the players (including the player who just sold the shares). The players are permitted to make bids for purchasing the stock in one hundred share increments using their respective silent bid cards 558. The bid made by each of the  
25       bidding players is not disclosed to the other players until all bids have been entered on the cards 558. Again, the bids must be at least as high as the absolute minimum value per share of \$0.25. The player having the highest bid per share receives the number of shares he/she desires. If any of the sold shares remain, the next highest bidder receives the number of shares he/she desires. This continues until all bidding players receive the  
30       shares they desire or until all of the shares are purchased, whichever occurs first. Each successful bidding player pays for the stock with cash based on the bid value made by that player. Additionally, the closing value of the stock purchased by each of the bidding players is equal to the lowest successful bid value, regardless of what each of the bidding players paid for their stock. For example, if player A purchases one

hundred shares of stock for \$10 per share and player B purchases the remaining one hundred shares of stock for \$5, the closing value for both players A and B is \$5, notwithstanding the fact that player A paid \$1000 for the stock and player B paid \$500 for the stock. If any of the shares remain after the bidding transaction, these shares are added to the amount of available shares noted on the corresponding laminated disk 418.

If two of the players bid the same value amount for different numbers of shares, the player bidding for the greatest number of shares receives all of the desired shares and the other player receives any remaining shares. For example, if the players are bidding on four hundred shares of stock and player A bids \$10 for three hundred shares and player B bids \$10 for two hundred shares, player A purchases three hundred shares and player B purchases one hundred shares. If two of the players bid the same value amount for an equal number of shares and there are not enough shares for both players, the players will roll the dice 481,482 with the highest roll receiving the desired number of shares.

If one of the players moves to one of the global risk spaces 406,408,410, one of the global risk cards 414 must be drawn. As indicated previously, the drawn global risk card affects the closing value for all owned shares of the identified stock and also changes the purchase price for that stock. For example, if the global risk card 414 shown in FIG. 11b is drawn, any player owning shares represented by the stock space "2V" (i.e., stock space 50) must increase the closing value per share by \$9. The purchase price for stock space 50 is also increased by \$9, and the new purchase price is preferably written on the face 420 of the corresponding laminated disk. It is again noted that the closing value and the purchase price cannot be lowered by one of the global risk cards beyond the absolute minimum of \$0.25 per share.

As noted above, there are a plurality of spaces on the board that affect only the player who moved to that space. For example, each player is monetarily awarded each time he/she passes the start space 428, with the award being relatively less when the player is returned to the start space 428 as a result of landing on the return to start space 430. The busted space 440 monetarily penalizes the player, causes the player to lose at least one turn, and relocates the player to the confinement space 438. In fact, the game will end for any player who lands on the busted space 440 a third time. The board also includes two spaces 452 and 454 that monetarily penalize only the player who lands on that space, as noted hereinabove. As also previously described, the personal risk spaces 458,460,462 and associated personal risk cards 466a,466b also

have the potential of monetarily penalizing the player and causing the player to lose turns.

It is also noted that the preferred game method rewards a player who rolls a so-called "double" when rolling the dice 481,482. Particularly, a player receives an extra turn each time the rolled dice 481,482 represent the same value. For example, if a player rolls the dice 481,482 and both dice represent a value of four, the player will move eight spaces and, depending upon the space to which the player moves, sell or purchase stock, be monetarily penalized or awarded, etc. The player will then be given another turn, and this will continue as long as the player rolls doubles. Such an occurrence in the game method is preferably referred to as "on a roll". However, there are two instances when a player will not be rewarded an extra turn for rolling a double. First, if upon rolling a double the player moves to the busted space 440, the player will not receive an extra turn and will be required to lose the appropriate number of turns as described above. Alternatively, if the player lands on one of the personal risk spaces 458,460,462 and draws one of the personal risk cards 466a having DWI indicia such that one of the judgement day cards 466b must also be drawn, the player will not be rewarded an extra turn and will be required to skip the appropriate number of turns as described above.

The preferred game method involves having the players take turns until a predetermined amount of time has lapsed or until a predetermined monetary amount is exceeded by the combined money and stock value held by one of the players, whichever occurs first. For example, a suitable time limit is believed to be two hours, although no time limit is required. Instead, the end of the game may be defined only by a predetermined amount. For example, the game may be played until one of the players has a total portfolio value (i.e., the cash in hand added to the value of the owned stocks) in excess of \$100,000.

The preferred game method is also applicable to computerized versions of the game 10. For example, the board may be displayed on a computer screen and random player movement may be provided by the computer, as well as dealing of the various cards 330,332,334,414,466a,466b. In fact all or some the cards may be eliminated with the computer being configured to randomly provide monetary penalties and awards, "global" changes to the closing values and purchase price of one of the stocks, etc. The computerized version of the game method would also automatically process stock values and other calculations for the players. A computerized version of

the game method would permit remotely located players to play against one another using a computer network.

5 The preferred forms of the invention described above are to be used as illustration only, and should not be utilized in a limiting sense in interpreting the scope of the present invention. Obvious modifications to the exemplary embodiments, as hereinabove set forth, could be readily made by those skilled in the art without departing from the spirit of the present invention.

10 The inventor hereby states his intent to rely on the Doctrine of Equivalents to determine and assess the reasonably fair scope of the present invention as pertains to any apparatus not materially departing from but outside the literal scope of the invention as set forth in the following claims.

What is claimed is:

1. An investment board game comprising:  
a plurality of game pieces, with each of the pieces representing a player;  
5 a board having a plurality of stock spaces defining at least in part an endless  
path along which the game pieces are moved,  
each of said stock spaces including indicia identifying a stock, and further  
including a stock purchase price area in which a purchase price for the  
stock may be represented;  
10 a monetary system useable to purchase the stock;  
mechanism operable to provide a random space count for movement of the  
game pieces along the path;  
a chance indicator useable to determine a closing value for the stock purchased  
by the player; and  
15 a stock portfolio device operable to permit input and storage of the purchased  
stock and the closing value for the purchased stock.
2. An investment board game as claimed in claim 1,  
said board including a plurality of personal risk spaces interspersed among the  
20 stock spaces along the path; and  
a plurality of personal risk cards to be drawn by the player when the player's  
game piece is moved to one of the personal risk spaces,  
at least some of the personal risk cards including indicia representing a  
monetary award or penalty for the player.
- 25 3. An investment board game as claimed in claim 2,  
said board including a pair of personal risk card areas so that drawn and  
undrawn personal risk cards may be stored separately on the board.
- 30 4. An investment board game as claimed in claim 2,  
said personal risk cards including a set of judgement day cards to be drawn by  
the player only when instructed to do so by another one of the personal  
risk cards,

each of said judgement day cards including indicia identifying a monetary penalty and a number of turns to be missed by the player.

5           5.     An investment board game as claimed in claim 1,  
said board including a plurality of global risk spaces interspersed among the  
stock spaces along the path; and  
a plurality of global risk cards to be drawn by the player when the player's game  
piece is moved to one of the global risk spaces,  
each of said global risk cards including indicia representing an increase or  
10       decrease in the purchase price and closing value for at least one stock.

15           6.     An investment board game as claimed in claim 5,  
said board including a pair of global risk card areas so that drawn and undrawn  
global risk cards may be stored separately on the board.

20           7.     An investment board game as claimed in claim 1,  
said board including a start space and a return to start space,  
said start and return to start spaces being spaced from one another along the  
path.

25           8.     An investment board game as claimed in claim 7,  
said board including a busted space that includes indicia representing a number  
of turns to be missed by the player when the player's game piece is  
moved to the busted space,  
said board including a confinement space to which the game piece is moved and  
located during a missed turn as a result of landing on the busted space,  
said busted and confinement spaces being spaced from one another along the  
path.

30           9.     An investment board game as claimed in claim 8,  
said spaces being arranged in such a manner that the path is generally  
rectangular and presents four corners,  
said start and return to start spaces being located at opposite corners of the path,

said busted and confinement spaces being located at opposite corners of the path.

5           10.    An investment board game as claimed in claim 1,  
said stock spaces being arranged into a number of stock groups, with each of  
the stock groups including at least one of the stock spaces and having  
distinguishing indicia so that the stock groups are distinguishable from  
one another,  
10       said at least one of the stock spaces for each of the stock groups being provided  
with the distinguishing indicia for that stock group.

15           11.    An investment board game as claimed in claim 1,  
said monetary system comprising a plurality of faux bills.

          12.    An investment board game as claimed in claim 1,  
said mechanism including at least one six-sided die, with each of the sides  
including indicia representing a number.

20           13.    An investment board game as claimed in claim 1,  
said chance indicator including a plurality of stock value cards, each including  
value change indicia representing a change in stock value or no change  
indicia representing no change in stock value.

25           14.    An investment board game as claimed in claim 13,  
said stock value cards being arranged into a high risk card set, a medium risk  
card set, and a low risk card set,  
said high risk card set having cards with value change indicia that cooperatively  
identify a greater range of changes in stock value than the cards of the  
30       medium risk card set, said medium risk card set having cards with value  
change indicia that cooperatively identify a greater range of changes in  
stock value than the cards of the low risk card set.

          15.    An investment board game as claimed in claim 14,



said high and medium risk card sets each having a greater number of cards with value change indicia identifying a stock value decrease than cards with value change indicia identifying a stock value increase.

5

16. An investment board game as claimed in claim 15, said high risk card set having a greater proportion of cards with stock value decrease indicia to cards with stock value increase indicia than the medium risk card set.

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17. An investment board game as claimed in claim 16; and a six-sided stock value die useable when one of the cards is to be drawn from the low risk card set, said stock value die having three sides with indicia indicating that any value change indicia of the drawn card shall be considered an increase in stock value, two sides with indicia indicating that any value change indicia of the drawn card shall be considered a decrease in stock value, and one side with indicia indicating that there is no change in stock value regardless of any value change indicia of the drawn card.

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18. An investment board game as claimed in claim 1, said stock portfolio device comprising a log for each player, said log including a plurality of shares purchased spaces and closing value spaces, with each of the shares purchased spaces and closing value spaces being associated with indicia identifying one of the stock spaces such that the number of shares purchased and closing value of the stock can be entered and stored.

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19. An investment board game as claimed in claim 18, said log comprising a booklet including a plurality of laminated pages, with the shares purchased spaces and closing value spaces being provided on the pages.

20. An investment board game as claimed in claim 19,

said stock spaces being arranged into a number of stock groups, with each of the stock groups including at least one of the stock spaces and having distinguishing indicia so that the stock groups are distinguishable from one another,

5 said at least one of the stock spaces for each of the stock groups being provided with the distinguishing indicia for that stock group,  
said stock groups being represented on separate ones of the laminated pages, with each one of the laminated pages including the distinguishing indicia for the corresponding stock group.

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21. An investment board game as claimed in claim 20,  
said chance indicator including a plurality of stock value cards, each including value change indicia representing a change in stock value or no change indicia representing no change in stock value,  
15 at least one of said laminated pages including indica representing each of the stock value cards so that the player can track which cards have been drawn.

15

22. An investment board game as claimed in claim 1; and  
20 a laminated bid card including a bid value space and a shares bid space that cooperatively permit player entry of the price per share and number of shares for which the player's bid is made.

20

23. An investment board game as claimed in claim 1,  
25 said stock purchase price area including indica identifying the purchase price; and  
a plurality of laminated elements, there being at least as many laminated elements as stock spaces,  
each of said laminated elements presenting a stock purchase price face on which  
30 the purchase price for one of the stocks may be erasably written, and an opposite shares available face on which a number of shares available for a stock space may be erasably written.

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24. A method of playing an investment game, said method comprising the steps of:

- (a) providing each player with an initial amount of money;
- (b) having each player move along a path that includes a plurality of stock spaces, each of which is associated with a stock and a purchase price for the stock;
- (c) permitting each player to purchase the stock represented by one of the stock spaces when that player moves to said one of the stock spaces; and
- (d) determining a closing value for the stock purchased by the player.

25. A method as claimed in claim 24, step (d) including the step of using a chance indicator when the player purchases stock to determine the closing value of the stock.

26. A method as claimed in claim 24, step (d) including the step of having the player draw one of a plurality of stock value cards when the player purchases stock, with each of the stock value cards including value change indicia representing a change in stock value or no change indicia representing no change in stock value.

27. A method as claimed in claim 26, step (d) including the step of having the player select the stock value card from a low risk card set, a medium risk card set, or a high risk card set, with the high risk card set having cards with value change indicia that cooperatively identify a greater range of changes in stock value than the cards of the medium risk card set and the medium risk card set having cards with value change indicia that cooperatively identify a greater range of changes in stock value than the cards of the low risk card set.

28. A method as claimed in claim 27, step (d) including the step of limiting the player to selecting from one of the card sets based on a present value of the stock.

29. A method as claimed in claim 27,  
step (d) including the step of rolling a six-sided stock value die before one of  
the cards is drawn from the low risk card set, with the stock value die  
having three sides with indicia indicating that any value change indicia  
of the drawn card shall be considered an increase in stock value, two  
sides with indicia indicating that any value change indicia of the drawn  
card shall be considered a decrease in stock value, and one side with  
indicia indicating that there is no change in stock value and that one of  
the low risk cards consequently need not be drawn.

30. A method as claimed in claim 24,  
step (d) including the step of dealing to the player one of a plurality of stock  
value cards when the player purchases stock, with each of the stock  
value cards including value change indicia representing a change in  
stock value or no change indicia representing no change in stock value.

31. A method as claimed in claim 24,  
step (b) including the step of using a mechanism operable to provide a random  
space count to control player movement along the path.

32. A method as claimed in claim 31,  
step (b) including the step of rolling at least one six-sided die, with each of the  
sides including indicia representing a number.

33. A method as claimed in claim 24;  
(e) providing a board that includes the plurality of stock spaces; and  
(f) providing a plurality of game pieces, with each of the pieces  
representing one of the players.

34. A method as claimed in claim 24; and  
(e) monetarily awarding or penalizing the player when the player moves to  
one of a plurality of personal risk spaces interspersed among the stock  
spaces along the path.

- 5                   35.     A method as claimed in claim 24; and  
(e)     having the player draw one of a plurality of personal risk cards when the  
player moves to one of a plurality of personal risk spaces interspersed  
among the stock spaces along the path, with at least some of the  
personal risk cards including indicia representing a monetary award or  
penalty for the player.
- 10                   36.     A method as claimed in claim 24; and  
(e)     permitting the player to sell stock for money during the player's turn.
37.     A method as claimed in claim 36; and  
(f)     permitting each player to bid on stock sold by one of the players.
- 15                   38.     A method as claimed in claim 37,  
step (f) including the step of each player using a bid card to make a bid for  
stock, wherein the bid card includes a bid value space and a shares bid  
space that cooperatively permit player entry of the price per share and  
number of shares for which the player's bid is made.
- 20                   39.     A method as claimed in claim 24; and  
(e)     relocating the player to a confinement space located along the path when  
the player moves to a busted space spaced from the confinement space  
along the path.
- 25                   40.     A method as claimed in claim 39,  
step (e) including the step of making the player skip at least one turn when the  
player moves to the busted space.
- 30                   41.     A method as claimed in claim 40,  
step (e) including the step of making the player miss a progressive number of  
turns each time the player moves to the busted space.

42. A method as claimed in claim 24; and
- (e) returning the player to a start space located along the path when the player moves to a return to start space spaced from the start space along the path.

5

43. A method as claimed in claim 24; and
- (e) determining a new closing value for the stock purchased previously by the player when the player moves to the stock space associated with that stock.

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44. A method as claimed in claim 24; and
- (e) changing the closing value of at least one stock when one of the players moves to one of a plurality of global risk spaces interspersed among the stock spaces along the path.

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45. A method as claimed in claim 44,
- step (e) including the step of also changing the purchase price of said at least one stock an amount equal to the change in the closing value.

20

46. A method as claimed in claim 45,
- step (e) including the step of having the player draw one of a plurality of global risk cards when the player moves to the global risk space, with each of the global risk cards including indicia representing an increase or decrease in the purchase price and closing value for said at least one stock.

25

47. A method as claimed in claim 24; and
- (e) repeating steps (b) through (d) until a predetermined amount of time has lapsed or until a predetermined monetary amount is exceeded by the combined money and stock value held by one of the players, whichever occurs first.

30



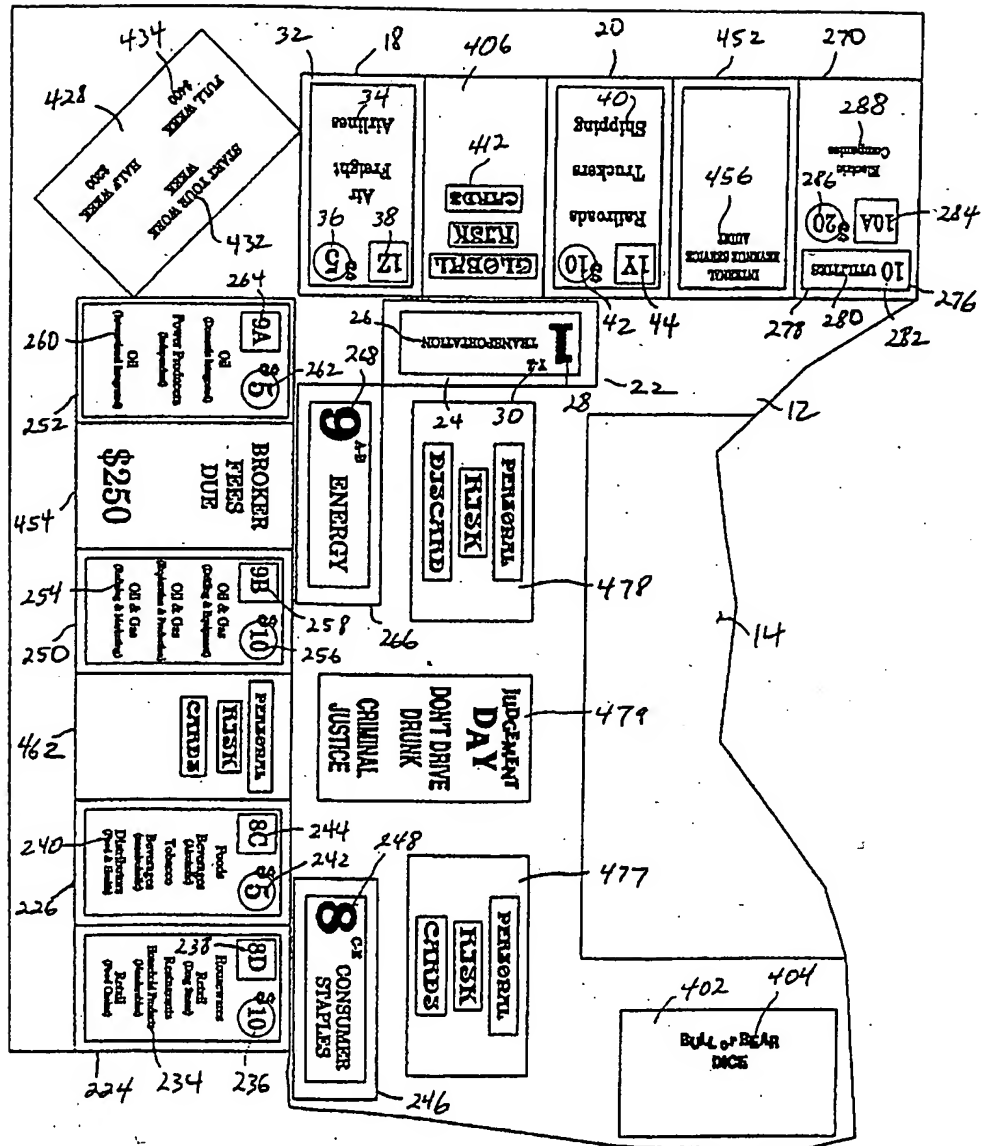


Fig. 2a.



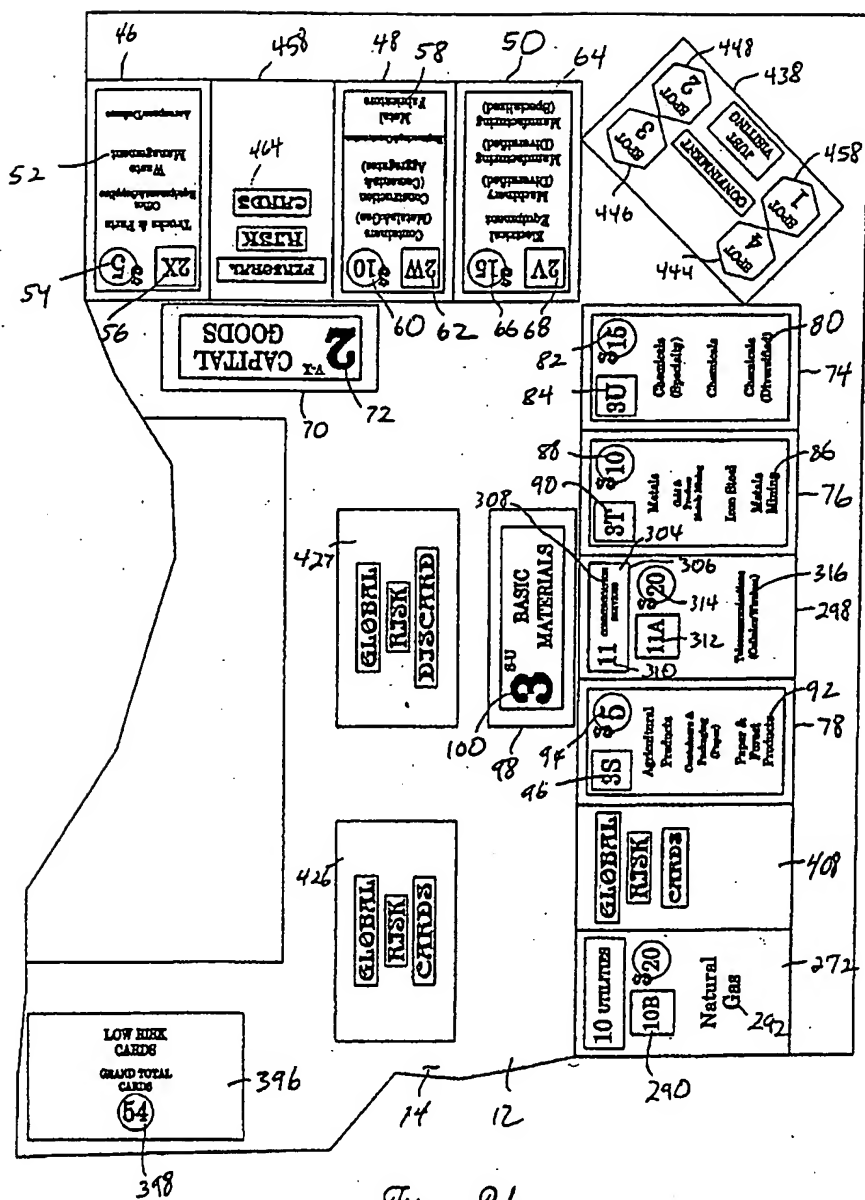


Fig. 26.

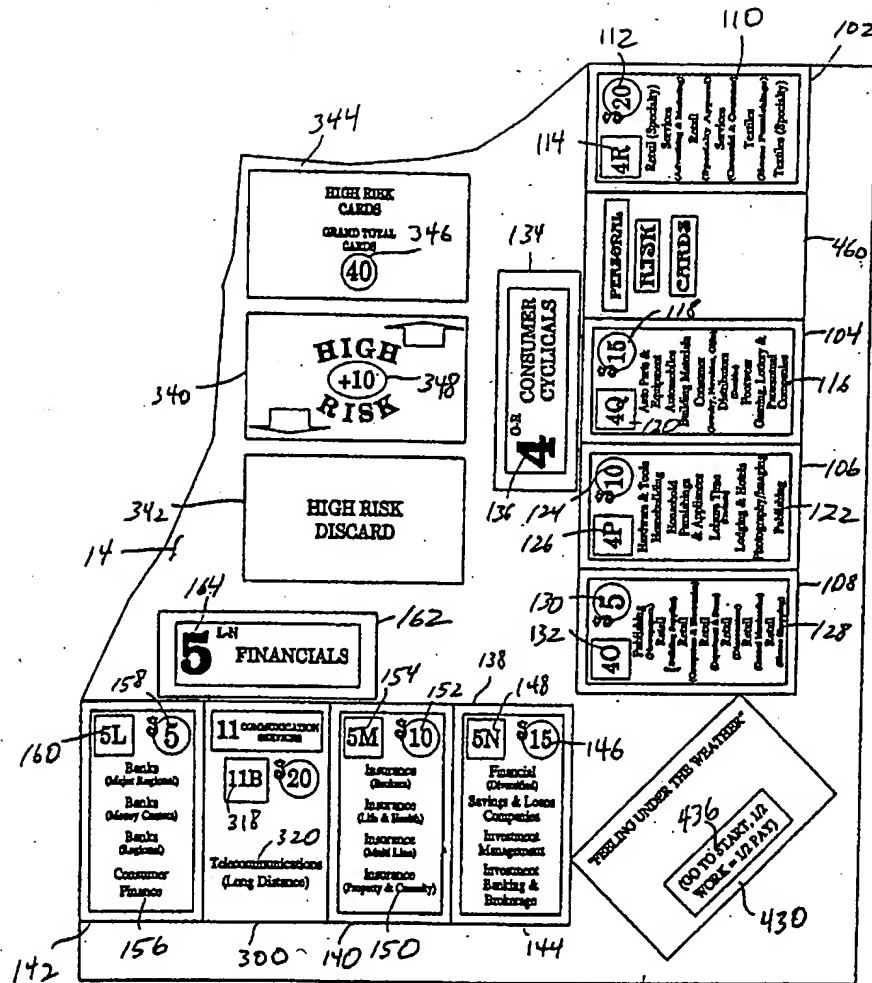


Fig. 2c.

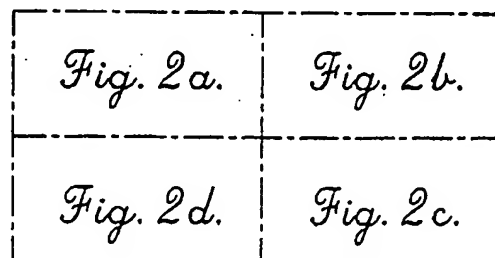
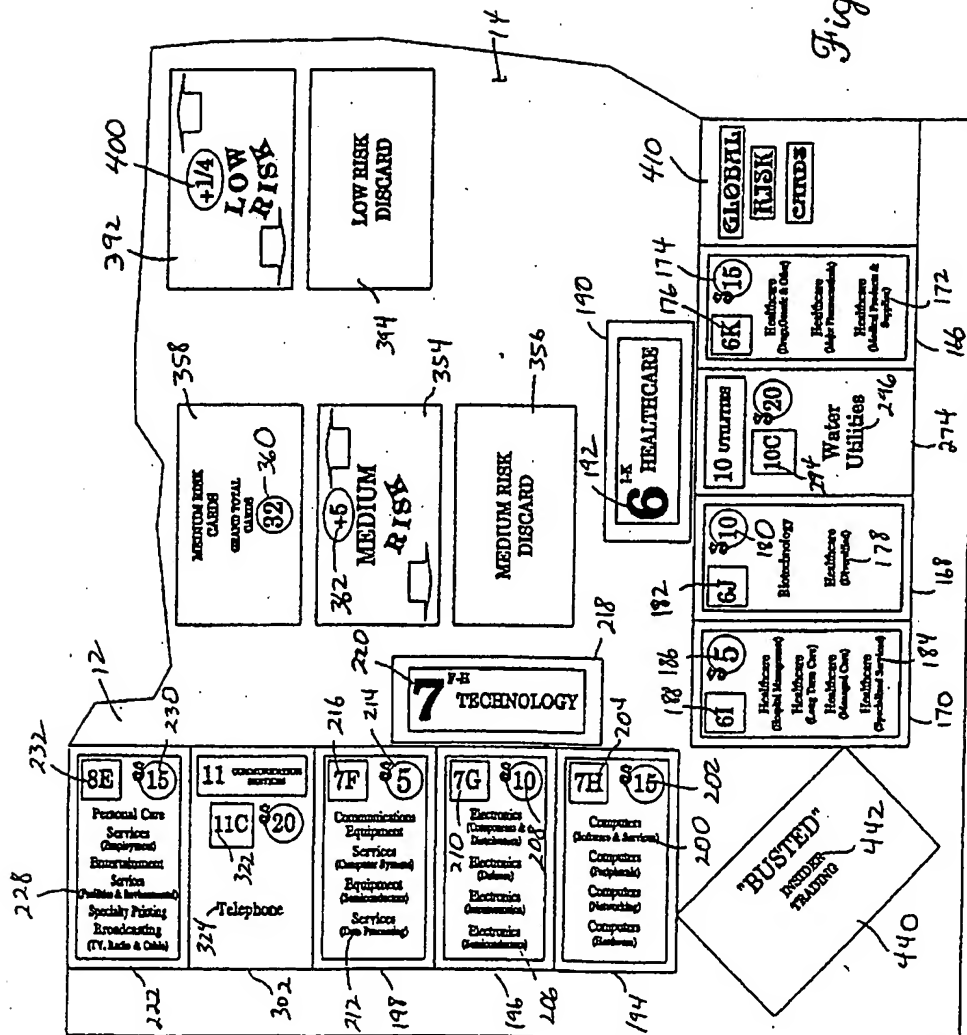
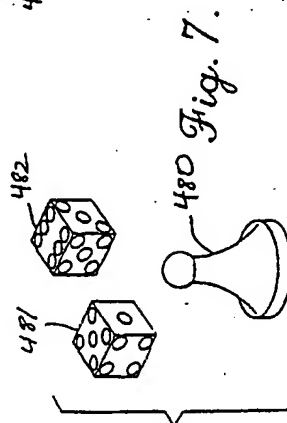
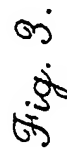
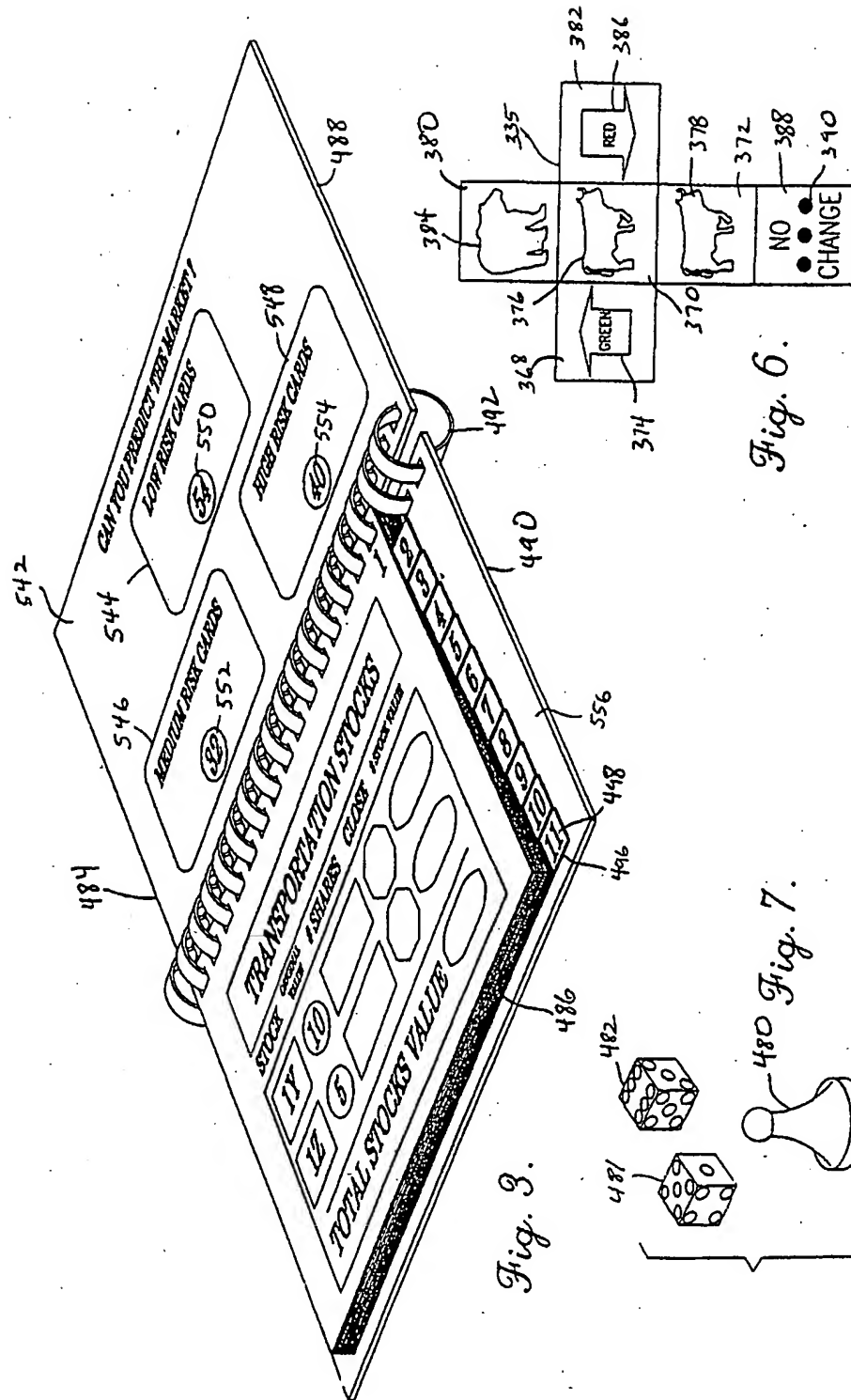
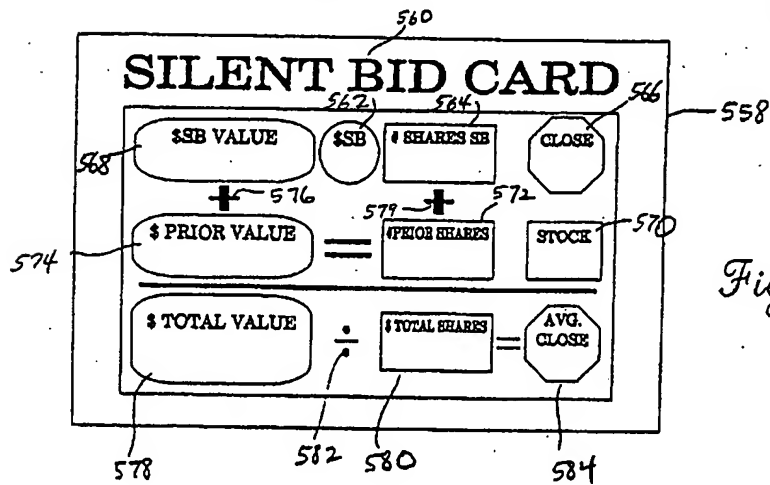
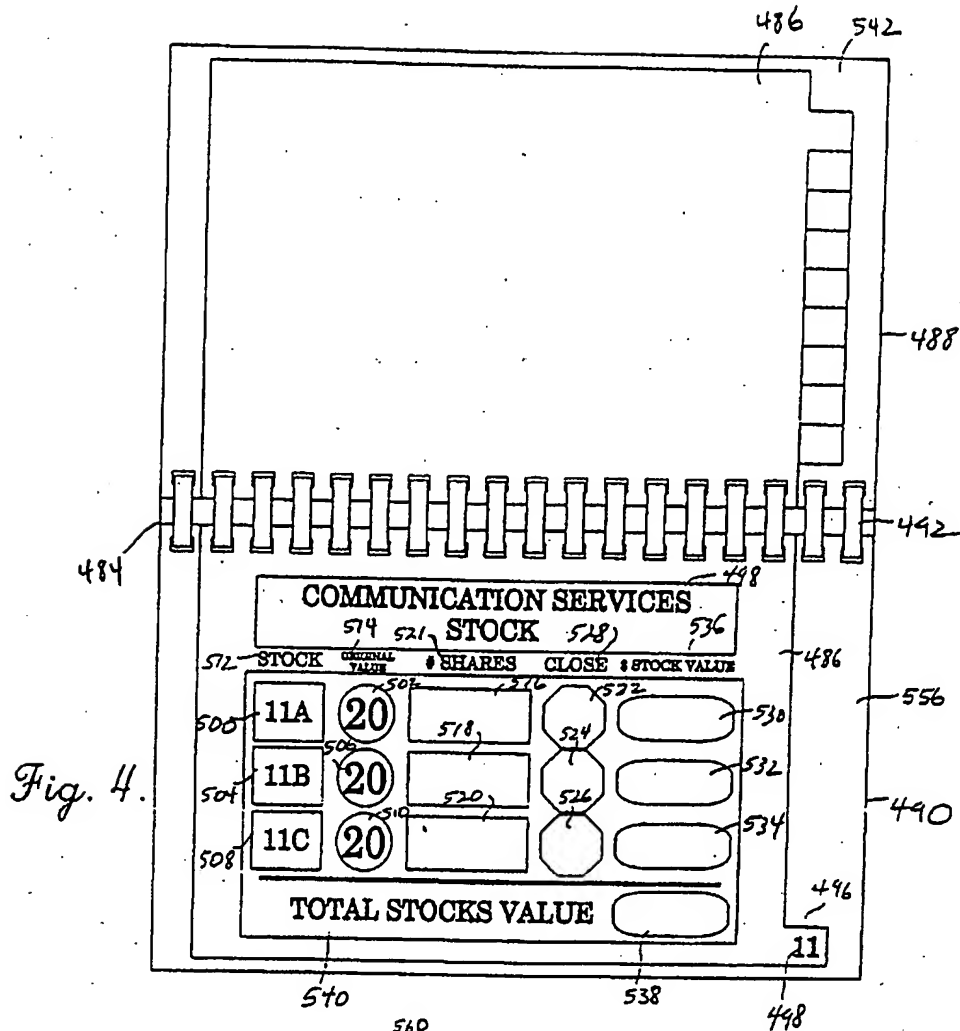


Fig. 2c.

Fig. 2d.







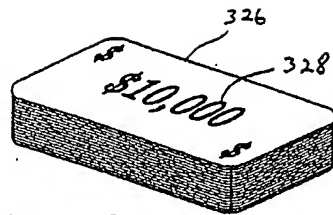


Fig. 8.

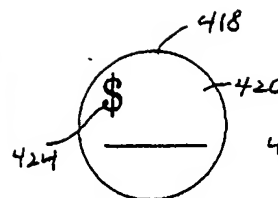


Fig. 9a.

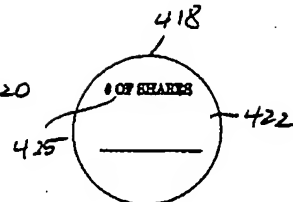


Fig. 9b.

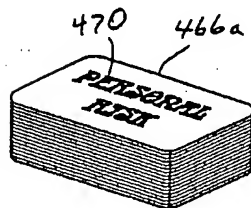


Fig. 10a.

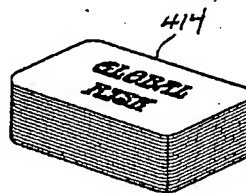


Fig. 11a.

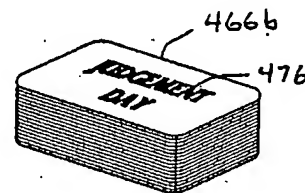


Fig. 12a.

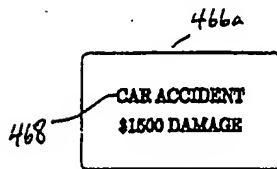


Fig. 10b.

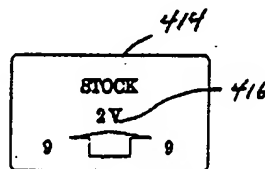


Fig. 11b.

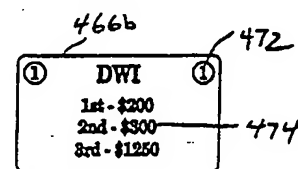


Fig. 12b.

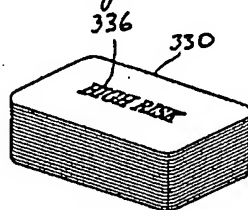


Fig. 13a.

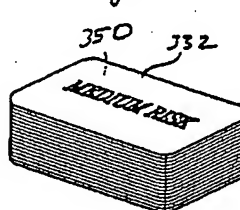


Fig. 14a.

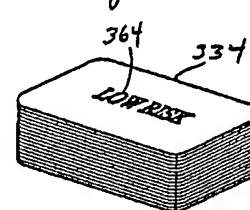


Fig. 15a.

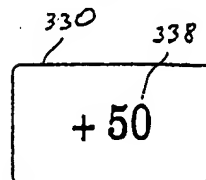


Fig. 13b.

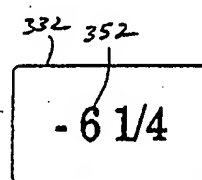


Fig. 14b.

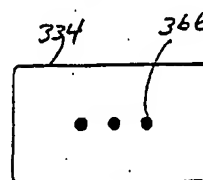


Fig. 15b.

## INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.  
PCT/US00/24315

| <b>A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER</b><br>IPC(7) : A63F 3/00<br>US CL : 273/236, 256, 278, 244.2<br>According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC  |   |  |
|--|---|--|
| <b>B. FIELDS SEARCHED</b><br>Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)<br>U.S. : 273/236, 256, 278, 244.2<br><br>Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched<br><br>Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used) |   |  |
| <b>C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT</b>  |   |  |
| Category*  | Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages  | Relevant to claim No.  |
| Y  | US 4,244,579 A (CAMPOS) 13 JANUARY 1981, See entire document.   | 1-47   |
| Y  | US 5,183,257 A (SHORE) 02 FEBRUARY 1993, See entire document.   | 1-47   |
| Y, P   | US 5,934,674 A (BUKOWSKY) 10 AUGUST 1999, See entire document.  | 1-47   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C. <input type="checkbox"/> See patent family annex.  |   |  |
| * Special categories of cited documents:   | T   | later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention  |
| "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance   | "X"   | document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone   |
| "E" earlier document published on or after the international filing date   | "Y"   | document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art |
| "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)  | "&"   | document member of the same patent family  |
| "O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means   |   |  |
| "P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed   |   |  |
| Date of the actual completion of the international search<br>10 OCTOBER 2000   | Date of mailing of the international search report<br>07 NOV 2000   |  |
| Name and mailing address of the ISA/US<br>Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks<br>Box PCT<br>Washington, D.C. 20231<br>Facsimile No. (703) 305-3230  | Authorized officer<br>VISHU K. MENDIRATTA<br>Telephone No. (703)308-0858<br><i>Sheila Veney</i><br>Paralegal Specialist<br>Technology Center 3700 |  |